

GREAT REGULATORS UNDER \$400!



SkinDiver

THE WORLD'S MOST READ SCUBA DIVING AND SNORKELING MAGAZINE • OCTOBER 2002

24 Dives of a Lifetime

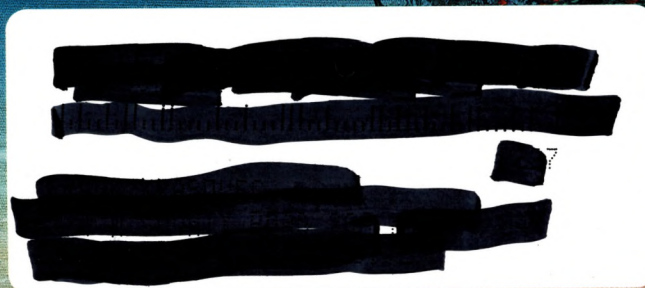
Freedive with Bahamas' Dolphins

Explore War Wrecks of the Pacific

Fly Cozumel's Currents

Venture Under Icy Antarctica

*Wyland,
Talbot, Doubilet...
What Inspires the Artists
of the Sea*



WYLAND

www.skin-diver.com





Expect heavy congestion. But not above sea level.



To see a world as awe-inspiring below sea level as it is above, visit www.bvitouristboard.com The last great undiscovered place.

For further information or to speak to a BVI specialist, call the BVI Tourist Board at 1-800-835-8530.

THE
BRITISH
VIRGIN ISLANDS
NATURE'S LITTLE SECRETS

MAURICIO HANDLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Professional photography services/Underwater specialists. Commercial and editorial assignments; workshops. Nanny Cay Marina, Tortola, BVI. Tel: (284) 494-0340, e-mail: mauricio@handlerphoto.com, website: www.handlerphoto.com

AQUAVENTURE SCUBA SERVICES, LTD.

Small groups! Big boat! Enjoy intimate diving with 8 divers on our 35' twin-diesel diveboat. Tel: (284) 494-4320, Fax: (284) 494-5608, e-mail: aquaventure@surfbi.com, website: www.aquaventurebvi.com

BASKIN IN THE SUN

Spoiled divers...unspoiled diving. The perfect balance for the unforgettable vacation you deserve. Tel: (800) 650-2084 or (284) 494-2858, Fax: (284) 494-4304, e-mail: reservations@baskinthesun.com, website: www.baskinthesun.com

PROMENADE CRUISES, LTD.

At Promenade we have more fun! A luxury 65' sail/dive yacht in the British Virgin Islands. Tel: (284) 499-2756, Fax: (284) 496-0909, e-mail: saildive@yachtpromenade.com, website: www.yachtpromenade.com

DIVE BVI

Now at three locations: Marina Cay, Leverick Bay and Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour. We dive to please! Tel: (800) 848-7078 or (284) 495-5513, Fax: (284) 495-5347, e-mail: info@divebvi.com, website: www.divebvi.com

KILBRIDES SUNCHASER SCUBA

For the very best of the BVI, come see Virgin Gorda and dive with us. Tel: (284) 495-9638 or (800) 932-4286, e-mail: sunscuba@surfbi.com, website: www.come.to/bvi

SAIL CARIBBEAN DIVERS

Two adventures, one destination. Customized sailing and diving, adult and family vacations, including crewed and bareboat charters. Tel: (936) 560-6794, e-mail: info@sailcaribbeandivers.com, website: www.sailcaribbeandivers.com

BLUE WATER DIVERS

Our relaxed yet professional approach makes us the choice of residents and a return favorite for visitors. Located at Nanny Cay Marina and Hodges Creek Marina. Tel: (284) 494-2847, e-mail: bwdlvi@surfbi.com, website: www.ultimatebvi.com/bluewater

CUAN LAW

There is no other liveaboard that comes close. Tel: (800) 648-3393, e-mail: cuanlaw@surfbi.com, website: www.cuanlaw.com

UBS DIVE CENTER

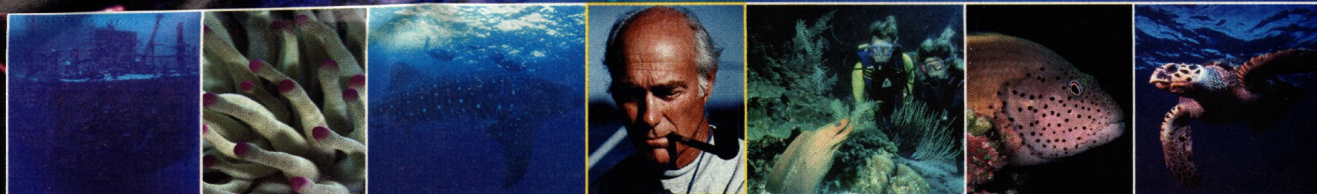
The BVI's only personalized dive service. Your own boat for the day; no mixing of groups. Tel: (284) 494-2749, e-mail: rainbow@surfbi.com, e-mail: mail@scubabvi.com, website: www.scubabvi.com

RAINBOW VISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

Personal attention...professional expertise. Full-service photo/video center. Jim and Odile Scheiner. Tel: (284) 494-2749, e-mail: rainbow@surfbi.com, website: www.RainbowVisionsBVI.com

UNDERWATER SAFARIS

Dive the best of the BVI including the Wreck of the Rhone. Rendezvous Tours with personalized guided groups. Tel: (800) 537-7032 or (284) 494-3235, e-mail: info@underwatersafaris.com, website: www.underwatersafaris.com



Dive with movie maker, Stan Waterman,
at CoCo View Resort December 7th-14th!

HONDURAS & a little bit of Belize

The overlooked Islands of the Western Caribbean... It's time to look them under!

CoCo View Resort



www.cocoviewresort.com

Fantasy Island Resort



www.roatan.com

Utila Lodge



www.utilalodge.com

Posada Del Sol Resort



www.roatan.com

As Roatan's premier dedicated dive resort for over 20 years, CoCo View boasts one of the highest repeat guest rates in the Caribbean... and for good reason: great diving, ambience, and world famous shore diving that will knock your booties off. The 24/7 shore diving is guaranteed incomparable! Some of the best barrier reef wall sites are literally "a snorkel away from the bar."

With a brilliant white sand beach, room service, TV, and all the amenities of a first class beach resort, you just might be fooled into thinking you landed in the Mediterranean. But this is Roatan, with all the charm and incredible scuba diving the island is famous for.

Your own little dive resort in the Bay Islands. Utila Lodge is the Caribbean's SRI sanctioned whale shark research field station. 8 oceanfront, air conditioned rooms with private porch or balcony. Spectacular boat diving includes sea mounts with sheer walls, delicate bluebell tunicates, and a real opportunity to see rare whale sharks.

Pamper yourself in a remote millionaire's retreat, a Spanish Villa where service is grand, the cuisine extraordinary. Guanaja's finest resort offers an in house masseuse, swimming pool, tennis courts, light tackle fishing, and, of course, fantastic Bay Island diving.



800-282-8932

Your Specialist in Honduras Travel Since 1981 • international: 352-588-4132 • email: info@roatan.com

Explore our Complete Online Tour Catalog: www.roatan.com

Dive Into Adventure The Islands of the Bahamas

700 Islands, 2 Oceans, Thousands of Dive Sites... Only Minutes From Miami!



Walls, Wrecks, Reefs, Dolphins and Sharks.

Diving Adventure and Excitement - The Islands of the Bahamas Has It All

It's Easy to Get to The Islands Of The Bahamas:

Non-Stop, Direct Flights From Many U.S. Cities-Plus U.S.-Operated Customs and Immigration Preclearance Services!

*Available from Nassau & Freeport

Visit these dive operators on our website www.bahamasdiving.com:

ABACO

Brendal's Dive Center International... 800-780-9941
Dive Abaco Ltd..... 800-247-5338
Dive Guana..... 242-365-5178
Froggies Out Island Adventures Ltd... 242-366-0024
Treasure Divers..... 242-365-8465
Walkers Cay Undersea Adventures... 800-327-8150

ANDROS

Andros Undersea Adventures..... 800-462-4100
Seascope Inn..... 242-369-0342
Small Hope Bay Lodge..... 800-223-6961

BIMINI

Bill & Nowda Keefe's Bimini Undersea... 800-348-4644
Scuba Bimini..... 800-848-4073

CAT ISLAND

Greenwood Dive & Beach Resort.... 242-342-3053
Hawks Nest Dive Center..... 242-342-7050

ELEUTHERA/HARBOUR ISLAND

Valentines Dive Center..... 242-333-2080

EXUMA

Exuma Dive Center & Watersports... 800-874-7213
Exuma Scuba Adventures..... 800-525-2210
Peace & Plenty..... 800-525-2210

LONG ISLAND

Stella Maris Inn..... 800-426-0466
Cape Santa Maria Beach Resort.... 800-663-7090

GRAND BAHAMA/FREEPORT

Grand Bahama Scuba..... 800-753-7282
Sunn Odyssey Divers..... 242-373-4014
The Underwater's Explorer's Society.. 800-992-DIVE
Xanadu Undersea Adventures..... 800-327-8150

NEW PROVIDENCE/NASSAU

Bahama Divers Ltd..... 800-398-DIVE
Dive Dive Dive..... 800-368-3483
Diver's Haven..... 242-393-0869
Nassau Scuba Centre..... 800-327-8150
Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas..... 800-879-9832

SAN SALVADOR

Riding Rock Resort..... 800-272-1492

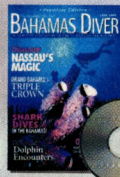
DIVE LIVEABOARDS

Aqua Cat Cruises..... 888-327-9600
Blackbeard's Cruises..... 800-327-9600
Bottom Time Adventures..... 800-234-8464
Cat Palu Cruises..... 800-327-9600
Nekton Diving Cruises..... 800-899-6753
Ocean Explorer, Inc..... 800-338-9383
Sea Dragon..... 954-522-0161
Sea Fever Diving Cruises..... 800-443-3837

THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

It Just Keeps Getting Better®

Bahamas Diving Association • P.O. Box 21707 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335-1707 • 1-800-866-DIVE • Intl. 305-442-7095
email: info@bahamasdiving.com • Photo Credits: Stephen Frink. © 2002 Bahamas Diving Association/CLINE. SD7/02



Visit Our Official Bahamas Diving Association

Website at www.bahamasdiving.com

and Request our FREE Bahamas Dive Guide
or CD-ROM Diving Brochure.

Visit Our Official Bahamas Diving Association Website at

Find Adventure and Excitement at These Bahamas' Dive Operators:



Stella Maris Resort Club, Long Island 800-426-0466 • 954-359-8238

Dive Shark Reef, the pristine Conception Wall and the world's deepest Blue Hole. Historic and modern wrecks. Hundreds of reefs. PADI/SSI courses. Ask about our 2-Island packages. Air-conditioned hotel rooms and 1-2-3&4 bedroom cottages. Snorkeling, fishing, sailing, biking, and more!

email: smrc@stellamarisresort.com
www.stellamarisresort.com



Nekton Diving Cruises 800-899-6753 • 954-463-9324

Experience Nekton's unique stable SWATH design liveaboards while diving the pristine waters of the Bahamas and Belize. Spacious cabins w/ private bathrooms and twin or queen beds. Vessels feature an elevating dive platform, sundeck with jacuzzi, E-6 processing. Prices from \$1,395 per person, dbl occ.

email: info@nektioncruises.com
www.nektioncruises.com



Sea Fever Diving Cruises 800-443-3837 • 757-481-2075

Miami Departure and Return! Sea Fever Diving Cruises has been taking divers on incredible diving adventures for over 20 years. Sea Fever provides live-aboard diving the way it should be; freedom to dive your way. Individual pricing from \$995; group charters from \$9,889.

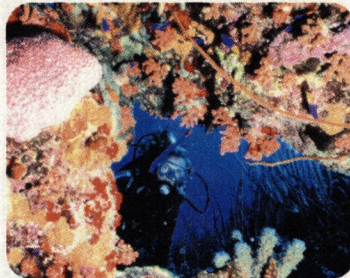
email: seafever@seafever.com
www.seafever.com



Bahama Divers 800-398-DIVE • 242-393-6054 Fax: 242-393-6078

Two Tank Dives, Walls, Blue Hole, Wrecks, Reefs, Night Dive. Dive Shop: Full Line-US Divers, Sherwood, Full Service, Parts, Rentals PADI 4 Day Certification Course, Open Water Referrals.

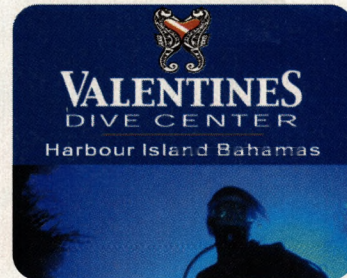
email: bahdiver@coralwave.com
www.bahamadivers.com



Bahamas Travel Network 800-513-5535 • 305-438-4222

Bahamas Travel Network is the established specialty wholesaler for dive packages and low-cost airfares to the Islands of The Bahamas. Great specials- 4 days \$242, 8 days \$613.

email: btn@maduro.com
www.bahamatravelnet.com



Valentines Dive Center Harbour Island Bahamas 877-211-7617 • 242-333-2080

Enjoy hassle-free diving to pristine coral reefs, walls, grottos and drift dives. PADI dive courses, snorkeling, boat charters and watersports. Great hotel and dive packages. World's best beaches.

email: info@valentinesdive.com
www.valentinesdive.com

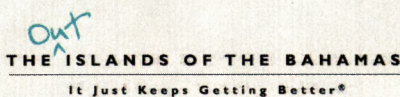


Small Hope Bay Lodge, Andros Island, Bahamas

800-223-6961 • 242-368-2014

Free Advanced Certification through December 15, 2002. Enhance your skills diving the Walls and Blue Holes of Andros. Dive with the most experienced resort in the Bahamas on the third longest barrier reef in the world! Personalized attention—just twenty cottages on the beach. All-inclusive rates—right down to a help-yourself bar.

email: SHBmkt@SmallHope.com
www.SmallHope.com



Bahama Out Islands Promotion Board

800-Out Islands (688-4752)

Escape the crowds and discover virtually untouched beaches, a fishing paradise, and one of the world's largest barrier reefs. Be enchanted by the welcoming smiles of the Bahamian people.

The Out Islands. Only an hour from Florida, yet a million miles away.

www.Bahama-Out-Islands.com



Holiday Inn, Nassau 800-HOLIDAY • 242-356-0000 Fax: 242-323-1408

Visit the newly renovated Holiday Inn Nassau, located just outside downtown Nassau. Offering divers the convenience of their location and affiliation with many local dive shops, Holiday Inn Nassau provides divers a wide variety of dive options and amenities.

email: Holidayinn_Nassau@bahamas.net.bs
www.holiday-inn.com/nasjunker

Palau

"Do you come here often?"

It isn't everyday you get up-close and personal with colorful and extraordinary reefs like those in Palau. Your liveaboard dive experience should be just as extraordinary. The Dancer FleetSM sets the standard for liveaboard luxury with first class service and amenities such as comfortable cabins with en-suite facilities, morning beverage brought to your suite, five star full course dining, 24-hour safety watches and extra attention from our professional, qualified crew.

Palau
Papua New Guinea
STAR DANCER

Bali
KOMODO DANCER

Belize
SUN DANCER II

Providenciales, TCI
SEA DANCER

Grand Turk, TCI
Bahamas
Silver Bank
WIND DANCER

Galapagos
SKY DANCER

Los Roques
ANTARES DANCER

Dive EasySM

Photograph © Georgienne Bradley



Preferred
Test Dive Fleet

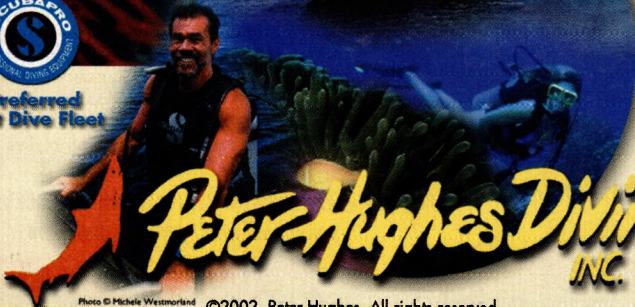


Photo © Michele Westmorland

©2002. Peter Hughes. All rights reserved.

5723 NW 158th Street / Miami Lakes / Florida 33014
Local Phone: 305-669-9391 • Fax: 305-669-9475

1-800-9-DANCER

e-mail: dancer@peterhughes.com

www.peterhughes.com



**Work Hard,
Dive Easy.SM**



THE EXCURSION ROUND TOE DIVE BOOT

- AVAILABLE IN 5mm AND 6.5mm
- PLATINUM GLIDESKIN™ INTERIOR, REDUCES WATER ENTRY AND KEEPS YOU WARM
- SIDE ZIP. SMOOTHSKIN ZIPPER BARRIER MINIMIZES WATER ENTRY
- GLUED AND BLINDSTITCHED SEAMS
- INJECTION MOLDED SOLE
- FIN TAB ON HEEL CAP
- ANATOMICALLY CUT TO FIT THE NATURAL CURVES OF THE FOOT



THE EXCURSION 5 FINGER GLOVE

- AVAILABLE IN 3mm
- PLATINUM GLIDESKIN™ INTERIOR, REDUCES WATER ENTRY AND KEEPS YOU WARM
- VELCRO WRIST CLOSURE FOR ADJUSTMENT
- GLUED AND BLINDSTITCHED SEAMS
- KEVLAR PALMS AND FINGERTIPS FOR EXTRA GRIP AND DURABILITY
- ANATOMICALLY CUT TO FIT THE NATURAL CURVES OF THE HAND AND FINGERS



THE EXCURSION COLDWATER HOOD

- AVAILABLE IN 3mm AND 6mm
- PLATINUM GLIDESKIN™ INTERIOR, REDUCES WATER ENTRY AND KEEPS YOU WARM
- FOX FLEX NEOPRENE CHIN PANEL
- SMOOTHSKIN FACE SEAL
- TRIPLE GLUED AND BLINDSTITCHED SEAMS, TIES ITSELF OFF IF THE STITCH IS BROKEN
- NYLON-2 BIB WITH GLIDESKIN INTERIOR, TUCKS UNDER SUIT FOR SECURE FIT
- ANATOMICALLY CUT AND PRE-BENT TO FIT THE NATURAL CURVES OF THE HEAD





features

46 GREAT REGS UNDER \$400

Want a quality regulator that won't break the bank? KARL SHREEVES serves up the first installment of regs (9 to be exact) that breathe great, dive after dive, and at half the cost of their top-of-the-line siblings.

54 24 DIVES OF A LIFETIME

TOM MORRISEY kick-starts our foray into some of the world's best dives by musing about that elusive experience we all seek—the dive of a lifetime. Following are 24 dives you shouldn't miss, compiled by our faithful crew of *SKIN DIVER* CONTRIBUTORS.

76 THE ART OF THE SEA

As divers, we are all inspired, but few of us have the talent to express such deep thoughts. STEVE CREECH paints a picture of the sea's influence on those who can.

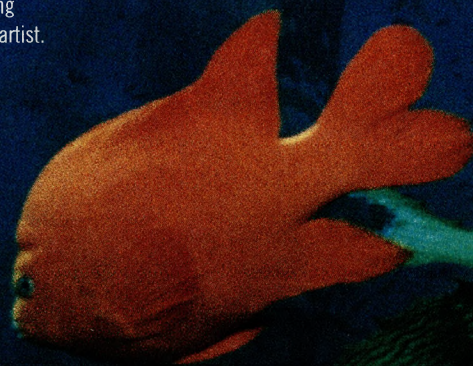
ABOUT THE COVER:

"Warm Tropical Islands" by Wyland. Famous worldwide for his "Whaling Wall" murals, Wyland will appear this month at the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association's annual trade show in Las Vegas, serving as the event's official artist.

Background photo:

Garibaldi in a kelp forest off the coast of California.

PHOTO: NORBERT WU





departments

- 12 **EDITORIAL** by Daryl Carson
- 18 **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**
- 20 **FREEFLOW** edited by Tiffany H. Carey
Diving's Latest News
- 24 **ENVIRONMENT** by Jean-Michel Cousteau
Hawaiian Sanctuary—Good News for
Environment and Divers
- 28 **ASK THE PRO** by Marty Snyderman
Staying Sharp While Going Wide
- 32 **ENCOUNTERS** by Ned and Anna
DeLoach with Paul Humann
A Confederation of Mouths
- 35 **NEWT FRONTIERS** by Phil Nuytten
Art and Artists, Underwater, Part 2
- 38 **DIVE CLUB NEWS** by Michelle Danner

- 43 **DIVER'S LIBRARY** by Jim Walker
- 44 **GEAR AND GADGETS** by Jim Walker
- 52 **BLUE ADVENTURES FOR KIDS**
by Wyland
Making Conservation Child's Play
- 105 **TIME CAPSULES** by Ryan Allen
- 106 **DIVE TALES** by Eddie Goldstein
A Yucatan Trick or Treat

directories

- 94 Travel Guide
- 95 Overseas Divers' Directory
- 97 Internet Directory
- 99 Advertiser Directory, *Skin Diver* Link
- 101 Marketplace



DONALD TIPTON is a musician turned photographer, with a passion for marine mammals. For this issue, *Skin Diver* drew on his experience with the bulbous but gracious Florida Manatee.

"Winter before last, my wife Angela and I were at Three Sisters Spring in Crystal River," says Donald. "As I entered the water, I noticed a manatee about 100 feet away about the time he noticed me. The impetuous manatee made a mad dash in my direction. When it was about

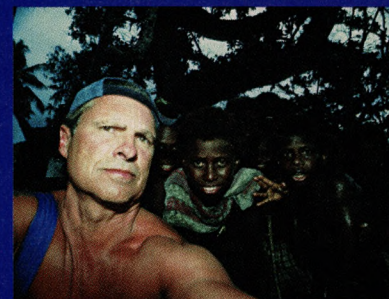
six feet away we both seemed to realize at the same time that manatees don't have brakes. At this point there was not much either of us could do. The manatee slammed into me with unabated inertia and we traveled together for another 10 feet or so with me curled around his nose like a hood ornament. The remainder of our encounter was tempered by this lesson in mammalian physics. My wife still kids me about this. So, remember, if you see a large marine mammal racing in your direction, don't just sit there."

Donald's latest book, *Upon the Face of the Waters*, was released November of 2001.

From his earliest days, **AL HORNSBY** has carried a fascination with the Asia-Pacific region, no doubt fostered by a childhood spent snorkeling the rich waters off Guam. This issue, Al shares diving expe-

riences from the Great Barrier Reef, Truk Lagoon and Sipadan, Borneo.

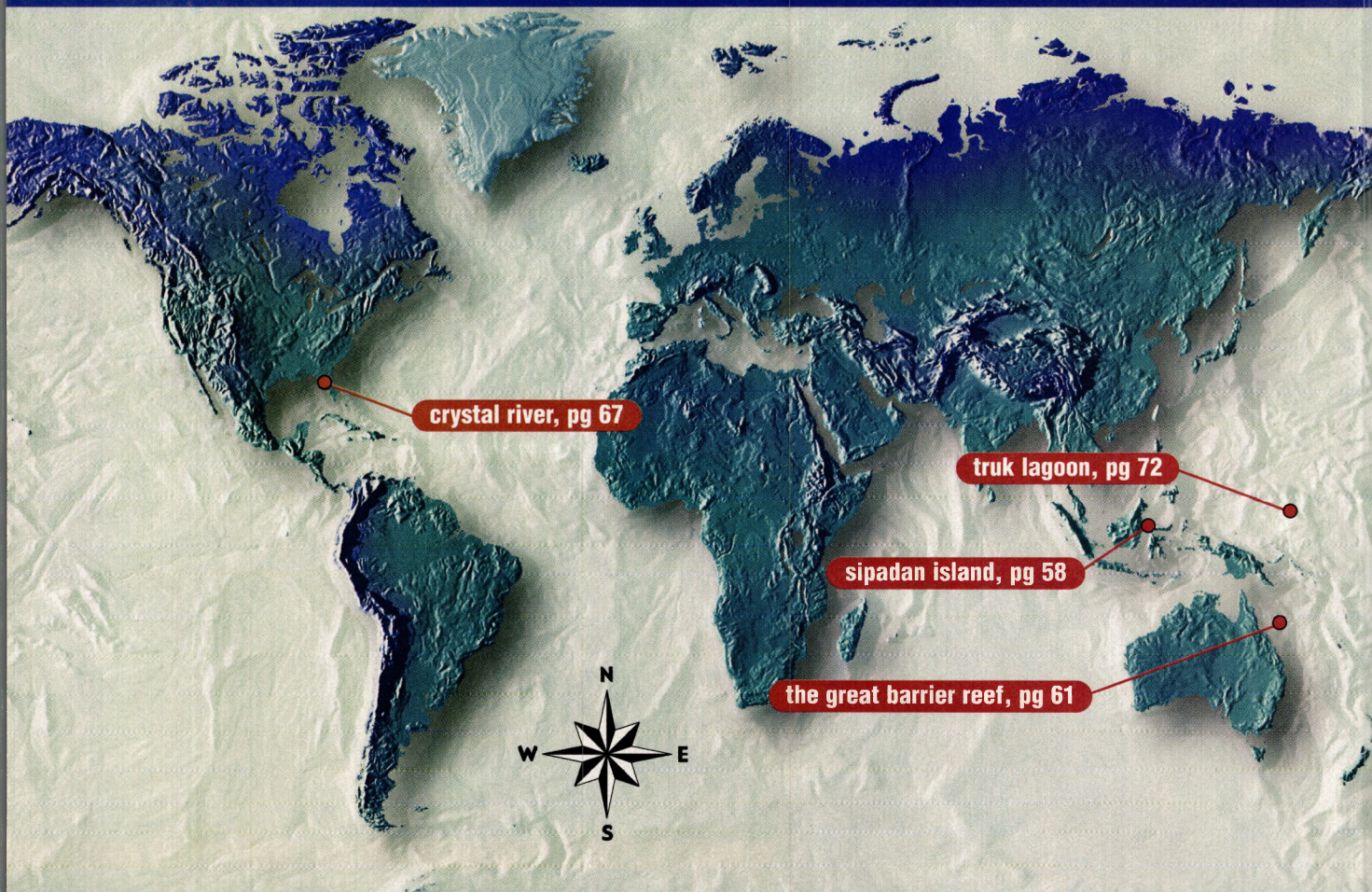
"On recent trips I dived the incredible reefs, but also crawled through rain forests, scrambled across rope bridges 100 feet above the ground, and climbed up and down the slopes of 13,000-foot Mount Kinabalu, photographing rare orchids and insects in the mist forest," says Al. "It's an



experience possible only in a region so diverse and ecologically rich."

Al has been a full-time dive professional for 26 years—as a dive instructor, a senior executive at PADI, editor and publisher at *Skin Diver*. Now back with PADI once again, he continues to bring adventure to life in the pages of *Skin Diver*.

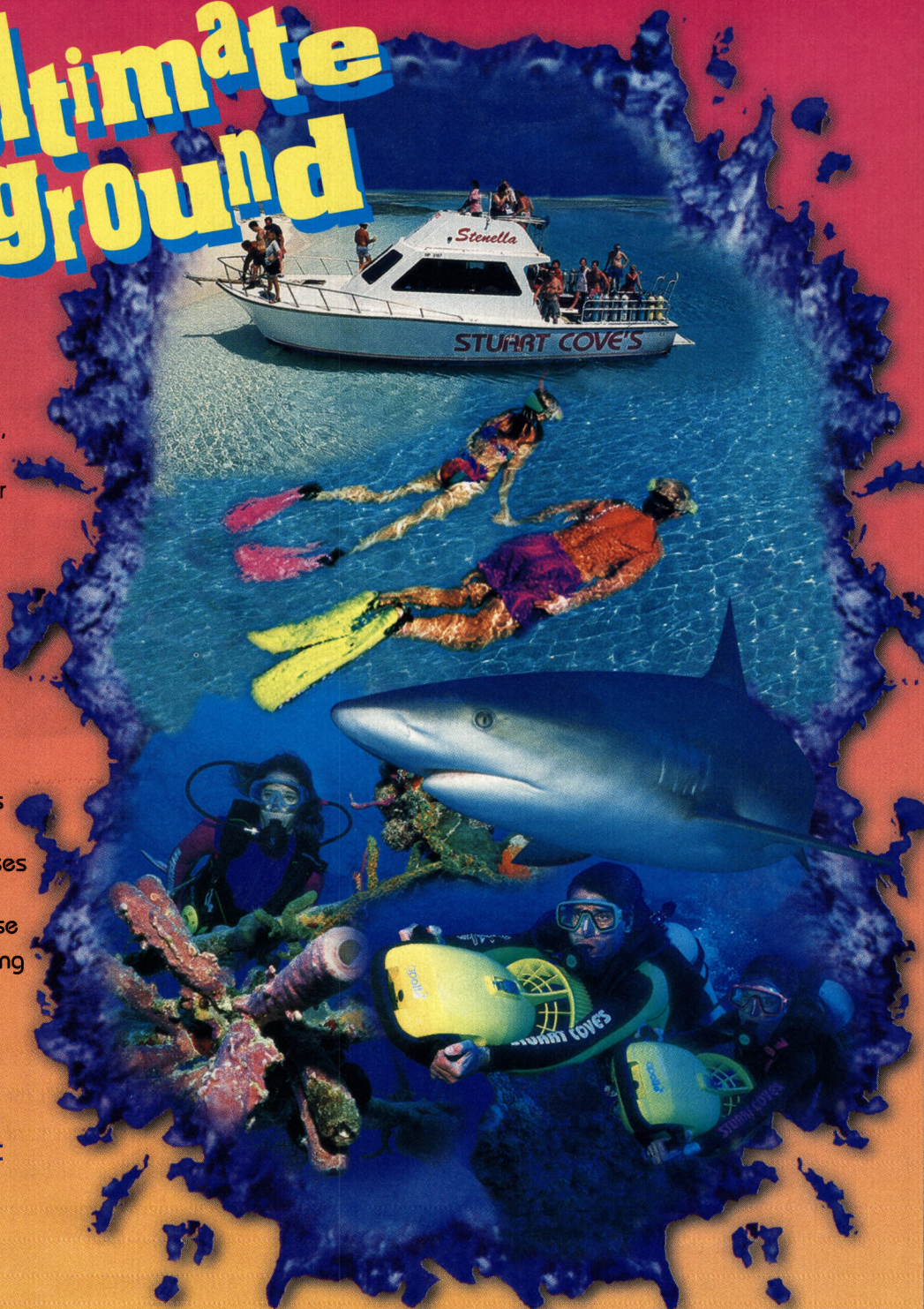
"Manatees don't have brakes...remember, if you see a large marine mammal racing in your direction, don't just sit there."



Your Ultimate playground

Walls, Reefs and Wrecks
 Movie Sites - James Bond,
 Splash, Flipper
 Wall Flying™ - Underwater
 Scooter Adventure
 Shark Adventure™ Dives
 Out Island Seafaris to
 Andros Island and
 Exuma Islands
 Dedicated Snorkeling
 Excursions
 Discover Scuba Diving
 Courses
 Open Water Certifications
 Advanced Open Water
 Training & Specialty Courses
 Shark Awareness
 Distinctive Specialty Course
 Enriched Air-NITROX Training
 & Diving
 Nassau's Only Full Service
 U/W Photo Center

Call and ask about
 our JRs DIVE FREE
 Program!



"For more than 20 years we have been exploring the reefs, wrecks and coral walls of Nassau. During this time we have discovered the best of what Nassau has to offer. So whether you're visiting us for the first time or returning for the 100th time, we always have something new and unique to amaze and thrill you."



STUART COVE'S
Dive Bahamas

888-788-2683 Toll Free

fax 954-524-5925
 in Nassau: 242-362-4171
www.stuartcove.com/sd
 Nassau • Bahamas

Located at the beautiful
 South Ocean Golf & Beach Resort
 Packages starting at 4days/3nights \$ **350**
 ppdo
 South Ocean
 Golf & Beach Resort 4/5/02-12/22/02



IT OCCURS TO ME THAT SOME THINGS should be self-explanatory. For instance, I recently returned from a week of live-aboard diving in Palau. Arduous work, yes, but it had to be done. After unpacking, a diver friend asked an innocent question: "How was the water?"

I thought about that for a moment.

It's Palau! It's great! How could it be otherwise?!

"Really nice," I said, playing it cool.

"What did you see?"

Swarming sharks, swirling barracuda, bazillions of non-stinging jellyfish and a Spotted Eagle Ray so close I could see its pupil!

"Oh, I had a pretty good Eagle Ray encounter."

"Yeah? What was that like?"

Are you kidding? It was intense. I burned half a roll of film from less than two feet away!

"Well, I got some good photos."

"That is nice."

I just nodded. I was afraid to let fly with a gushing stream of superlatives about *the most incredible best dive of my whole life, ever* because I wasn't sure he'd get it. He wasn't there.

In Palau I'd experienced a personal dive of a lifetime. And it's darn hard to articulate what that means to someone not intimately familiar with your own soul. But what I can say, and what this issue is all about, is that there are places where such marquee moments happen approximately 97.8 percent of the time.

Read. Dream. Go. Dive.

It will be better than nice. 🐟



Up Your Odds

DARYL CARSON, EDITOR

The Ocean Understands:

Thursday

...feel the chill of the cold water against your spine. It's dark down here... Where you are it's always night... You've missed it again... It's time to go back... Only fifty-eight minutes left... Most people wouldn't understand... Most people are at home watching T.V.

deepoutdoors

HARMONY™

INTEGRATED BUOYANCY COMPENSATOR SERIES

 UNITY™



The Unity distills the concept of the BC to its simplest form. This single tank unit is engineered to provide the mobility you've dreamed of with its forty pound bladder, anatomically correct shoulder straps, and hand-crafted stainless steel hardware.

 INTEGRITY™



Integrity merges popular components from our Matrix™ BC line into a solid single tank system. It is equipped like the Unity™ with the addition of integrated quick release weight pockets, daisy chains and a pony bottle attachment point.

WWW.DEEPOUTDOORS.COM
866.867.7739

godeep

CURAÇAO



We've been thinking of
**your perfect
dive vacation.**

Surfacing is quite the indulging experience at the charming **Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort & Emerald Casino.** Here, you'll dive into lavish luxury with 247 elegant guest rooms, each with a spectacular private balcony or terrace. And in addition to being rated one of the World's Favorite Dive Sites by Rodale's, the resort boasts an abundance of exhilarating amenities and activities including four restaurants and a 5,000-sq.-ft. casino. For reservations, call (800) 223-6388. Or, visit us at www.marriotthotels.com/curmc

thinking of you

**Ask about our special
Sand Dollars package rates
from \$159!**



©2002 Marriott International, Inc.

**Home Of
Diving
Freedom.**



Oceanfront resort with PADI 5-Star & Instructor Development Center offering boat dives daily, 24-hour unlimited shore diving, beginner to instructor courses, PADI, NAUI & SSI certification, Nitrox, rebreathers and lots more. Featuring deluxe accommodations, all with phones, TVs, kitchenettes and private patios or balconies. Guests enjoy superb diving, oceanfront restaurant, bar & pool, conference & fitness centers, aerobics, massages, bike rentals, free town shuttle and more!

* 8-day/7-night summer dive packages from \$538 for quad and \$631 for double, valid Apr. 2- Dec. 18, 2002.

* Group discounts, low-cost airfares and other packages also available.

* Book a 7-night package and receive 50% off your next visit!



Habitat Curaçao
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles

1-800-327-6709

E-mail: info@maduro.com

www.habitatdiveresorts.com

Skin Diver

EDITORIAL

DARYL CARSON
EDITOR

MICHELLE DANNER
MANAGING EDITOR

RYAN ALLEN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU
ENVIRONMENTAL EDITOR

MARTY SNYDERMAN
FIELD EDITOR

ART

KIMBERLY RICHEY
ART DIRECTOR

BERNICE P. GUEVARRA
ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR

NORB GARRETT
VP GROUP PUBLISHER/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.
ELLSWORTH BOYD • ANNA AND NED DELOACH
FRED GARTH • PAUL HUMANN
SCOTT D. JONES • PHIL NUYTTEN
KARL SHREEVES • DENISE NIELSEN TACKETT
LARRY TACKETT • NORBERT WU • WYLAND

SKIN DIVER ON THE WEB

www.skin-diver.com

DARYL CARSON
EDITOR

MICHELLE DANNER
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

GROUP MANAGEMENT

AMY DIAMOND/GROUP OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
PAUL GRAFF/CORP. CREATIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID M. COHEN/DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
JUNE STEINFELD/GROUP CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
MEGAN BRADY/ASSOCIATE CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
RICH BARON/DIRECTOR, SINGLE COPY SALES
JANEEN CALEO/ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, SINGLE COPY SALES
GREG PARNELL/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MANUFACTURING
CATHERINE TEMKIN/DEPUTY OPERATIONS MANAGER
ARNOLD AYERS/SPECIAL UNITS

LOS ANGELES EDITORIAL OFFICES

6420 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90048-5515
(323) 782-2960 • Fax (323) 782-2121

PRIMEDIA CORPORATE OFFICES

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10150
(212) 745-0100

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PRINTED IN THE USA.
© 2002 PRIMEDIA SPECIALTY GROUP



SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
within the U.S. phone (800) 800-3487
outside the U.S. phone (303) 678-0354

We're Turning Up the Heat.

Since its introduction five years ago, Harvey's classic Titanium Toaster® wetsuit has been a best seller. The Titanium Thermo-Shield® neoprene and unique construction made it the warmest and most flexible wetsuit on the market.

The next generation blasts it off the chart. Harvey's Titanium Toaster® has evolved into a semi-dry suit. The addition of the Kobalt Pro-Flex® seals in the torso, wrists, collar, and ankles completely eliminates water transfer throughout. This warm wetsuit has now evolved into an incredibly warm and flexible semi-dry suit.

- Kobalt Pro-Flex® seals in the torso and collar
Eliminates water transfer
- Kobalt® torso, (farmer John) for warmth
- Kobalt Pro-Flex® seal system in the wrists
Eliminates water transfer
- Spiral cut seals at the ankles for flexibility and strength
- Kobalt Pro-Flex® seal system in the ankles
Eliminates water transfer

Titanium Toaster® suits are available in 7/5 mm, 5/3 mm, and 3.0 mm, in M/W sizes.

The Kobalt semi-dry hood with its inverted skin seal bib, was designed to be worn with this suit, or any other manufacturers skin-in suits.

**For your nearest Harvey's Dealer call 1.206.824.1114
Visit us on the web at www.harveys-divesuits.com**



The Benchmark in Thermal Protection Since 1957 • Harvey's Divesuits, Kent, WA

Bonaire TEAM CHALLENGE 2002

at Plaza Resort Bonaire
Oct. 11-16 – Nov. 1-6 – Dec. 6-11, 2002

"Closet thrill seeker," "avid couch potato" or simply "half baked?" Call your friends and enter TEAM CHALLENGE for fun in the sun and a chance to win a return trip and other exciting prizes!

To learn more about Team Challenge, contact us at 1-800-766-6016, or visit www.sportdiver.com for a growing list of sponsors and travel partners.



Plaza Villas - Port Bonaire

Surrounded by the tranquil waters of Bonaire's Western Shore within minutes of the airport and town. 26 stylish apartments overlook lush gardens and a private swimming pool. Share amenities with the nearby Plaza Resort Bonaire or simply relax at your exclusive home away from home.

Tel: 1-800-766-6016 / 781-821-6016
Fax: 781-821-1568
Email: info@plazavillas.com
Website: www.plazavillas.com



Toucan Diving/Plaza Resort Bonaire

Dive into luxury! Bonaire's premier luxury oceanfront resort with 200 spacious suites and villas, 3 restaurants, 3 bars, PADI ★★★★★ Gold Palm Resort and NAUI / ID ★★★★★ Dive Center (with nitrox, TEC REC, SAS), photo and video shop, casino, spa and fitness center, tennis, pool, watersports, boat / car and scooter rental, activities desk, conference center, Aquakids and more! Great shore diving from our beach & pier 24 hours a day!

Tel: 1-800-766-6016 / 781-821-6016 • Fax: 781-821-1568
Email: info@plazaresortbonaire.com
Website: www.plazaresortbonaire.com



GREAT NEWS FROM ISLAND EXPRESS!

Special Plaza Resort Dive Package From \$1015 pp/dbl

Call Island Express 800.439.0300

Air Jamaica features Champagne Service to Bonaire Wednesdays & Saturdays
From Houston, Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newark, JFK, Atlanta & Chicago
R/T from Miami 8 days/7 nights, Jr. Suite, 6 Days, 1 Tank, Unlimited Shore Diving, Airport Transfers, Hotel Taxes & Service Charges.

Skin Diver

ADVERTISING

GUY MILLER
PUBLISHER

KIM WALMER SUSSMAN
NATIONAL ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

KATHY KNOLL
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

ADAM GREENE
ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

ART

GAIL HODGE
ADVERTISING ART DIRECTOR

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

LANCE FAHRNEY
(303) 670-9966 • lance.fahrney@skindivermag.com
KATHY KNOLL
(323) 782-2538 • kathleen.knoll@skindivermag.com
LORI LACHNIGHT
(954) 486-7890 • lori.lachnight@skindivermag.com
NEAL SANDERS
(718) 984-1943 • neal.sanders@skindivermag.com
KIM WALMER SUSSMAN
(310) 937-8161 • kim.walmer@skindivermag.com
DAVID WILKINSON
(251) 968-3383 • david.wilkinson@skindivermag.com
VIVIAN WILLIAMS
(323) 782-2778 • vivian.williams@skindivermag.com

AD SALES SUPPORT

JASON BUKOLT
(323) 782-2802 • bukoltj@skindivermag.com

PRIMEDIA AUTOMOTIVE ENTHUSIAST AND ACTION SPORTS GROUPS

CRAIG L. NICKERSON/PRESIDENT AND CEO
THOMAS B. RYAN JR./EXECUTIVE VP, SALES AND MARKETING
DAVID BALL/VICE PRESIDENT, CONSUMER MARKETING
NICK ELSNER/VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCTION
JOHN W. COBB III/VICE PRESIDENT, PRIMEDIA DIGITAL FOR AUTOMOTIVE AND ACTION SPORTS

PRIMEDIA CONSUMER MEDIA & MAGAZINE GROUPS

DAVID G. FERM/PRESIDENT AND CEO
DANIEL E. AKS/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
STEVE ASTER/EXECUTIVE VP, CONSUMER MARKETING/CIRCULATION
LINDA C. JENKINS/SR. VP/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
KEVIN MULLAN/SR. VP, MFG., PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
DEBRA ROBINSON/SVP/CIO, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
KENNETH P. SLIVKEN/SR. VP, HUMAN RESOURCES
CHUCK CORIDRAY/VP/CIRCULATION BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
THOMAS L. FOGARTY/VICE PRESIDENT, SINGLE COPY SALES
LILIA GOLIA/VICE PRESIDENT, MANUFACTURING BUDGETS AND OPERATIONS
CORINNE HELLMAN/VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

PRIMEDIA, INC

TOM ROGERS/CHAIRMAN AND CEO
CHARLES G. MCCURDY/PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
BEVERLY C. CHELL/VICE CHAIRMAN

REPRINTS: Contact Wright's Reprints to purchase quality custom reprints or e-prints of articles appearing in this publication at 877-652-5295 (281-419-5725 outside the U.S. and Canada)




amazing THAILAND

experience variety



Thailand, Burma



Mermaid Liveaboards
 e-mail: Info@mermaid-liveaboards.com / info@seaworld-phuket.com
 web : www.mermaid-liveaboards.com / www.seaworld-phuket.com
 Tel / Fax : + 66 76 341 595

MY AQUA ONE

by Aquasports Ltd. Thailand.
 120 ft. luxury live-aboard:
 16 paxs/8 cabins, private bathroom,
 E-6, Nitrox, friendly crews.
 Diving in Andaman sea, Thailand in
 November-May and June-September
 in Bali-Komodo-Alor, Indonesia.
USA Booking: 1-888-996-2782
Email : aquaone@bigplanet.com
www.dive-aquasports.com



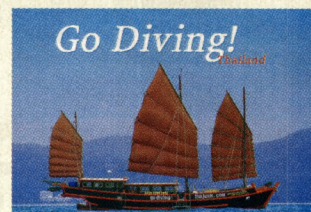

OCEAN ROVER

LUXURY LIVEBOARD CRUISES

THAILAND & MYANMAR
Fantasea Divers
 Since 1979
info@ocean-rover.com
www.ocean-rover.com

For an experience of nostalgia and pure magic around the Similan Islands and Richelieu Rock (Thailand), go diving with the Junk "June Hong Chian Lee". All this without leaving modern amenities behind. Originally build in 1962 for charcoal transportation, the Junk now carries a load of 14 crew and 18 passengers in six luxurious cabins with air-condition and en-suite bathrooms. And the food is just fabulous.

Go Diving!



www.thejunk.com



Reef Rainforest
 DIVE & ADVENTURE TRAVEL

LET OUR EXPERIENCE
 BE YOUR GUIDE
 TO THE
 MYSTERIES
 OF THAILAND

1-800-794-9767
e-mail:info@reefrainforest.com
www.reefrainforest.com



TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND • 800-THAILAND
 ADVENTURE@TATNY.COM • WWW.TOURISMTHAILAND.ORG

AIR COMPRESSORS

Breathe confident, Breathe MAX-AIR®

Max-Air 35

Compact, lightweight, and truly portable

- 4.2scfm* working pressure 4000psi
- Fills an 80cft tank to 3000psi in 19 min**
- Tri-chem air purification system
- Weight: 85 lbs
Size: L28" X D13" X H15"
- Comes ready-to-go!
Just add gasoline or electricity
- Low maintenance

BREATHING AIR TO GO!
(Gas or electric models)



Max-Air 90 Compact E3

Stationary, Continuous Duty Units

Compact, fully automatic, high-pressure compressor for all breathing air applications!



- Continuous duty capability
- 10.8scfm* working pressure 5000psi
- Tri-chem air purification system
- Deluxe powder coated cabinet for quiet, stationary operation
- Automatic and manual purge condensate drain system w/collector and auto shutoff
- Air storage system compatible
- Fills an 80cft tank to 3000psi in 7.5 min**
- Comes with (2) filling hose assemblies
- Electric 7.5hp, 220/440 volt - available in single or 3-phase @ 50 or 60 hz

MANY OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE -
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

MAXAIR®
HIGH PRESSURE AIR COMPRESSOR SYSTEMS

Phone: 830-257-5006 Fax: 830-257-3720 •
2807 Peddler Lane • Kerrville, TX 78028 U.S.A.

www.max-air.com

*Based on charging an 80cft cylinder from 500psi to 3000psi
**Time required to fill 80cft cylinder from 500psi to 3000psi

LETTERS

Bags Already Packed

I have just finished reading the article "Six Islands, Eight Nights," [June 2002] and I am ready to pack my bags and take off! I

have been diving for over 20 years and this is one of the best articles I've ever read. I really enjoyed Heidi's style and sense of humor.

—Mary Ann, Chattanooga, TN

Starry-Eyed

The August edition of *Skin Diver* magazine was an enjoyable read. The



article by Dr. Hillary Viders, "Zale Parry: A Star that Keeps Shining Brighter" was my personal highlight of the issue. I was a young child in the late 50s early 60s when the late Lloyd Bridges entertained us with his weekly exploits as Mike Nelson (*Sea Hunt*). Amazingly no major network thought

a show set underwater would be a ratings winner, but Lloyd and Zale proved them wrong. Continue the fine job on this magazine.

—Herbert

Newberry Jr.,
Newborn, GA



Future Biologist: I Want to Start Now!

My name is Jessie Turner. I live in Colorado, and I am very involved with the ocean. My favorite sport is scuba diving. Your magazine has helped me to find and consider fantastic and breathtaking locations. Some day I hope to be a marine biologist, and study and help the aquatic area. Each day I hope to get the chance to see the things that divers in the magazines have seen. How can I get more involved with the ocean if I live in Colorado? What can I do to help the marine environment?

Thanks again for opening my life to more and better opportunities in order to become a marine biologist! I am looking forward to your reply.

—Jessie Turner, via e-mail

We are pleased to learn of your interest in the ocean. Fortunately for you, there are a number of organizations that are very involved in ocean issues and offer many options for indi-

vidual involvement. Jean-Michel Cousteau's organization, Ocean Futures Society, is a good source of information on ocean issues. He even has a new educational program starting up this summer in Kona, HI, for people who want to learn about coral reefs, ecology and how they can live more sustainably. You may want to check out the Ocean Futures website at www.oceanfutures.org and the educational program at www.ambassadors-of-the-environment.org.

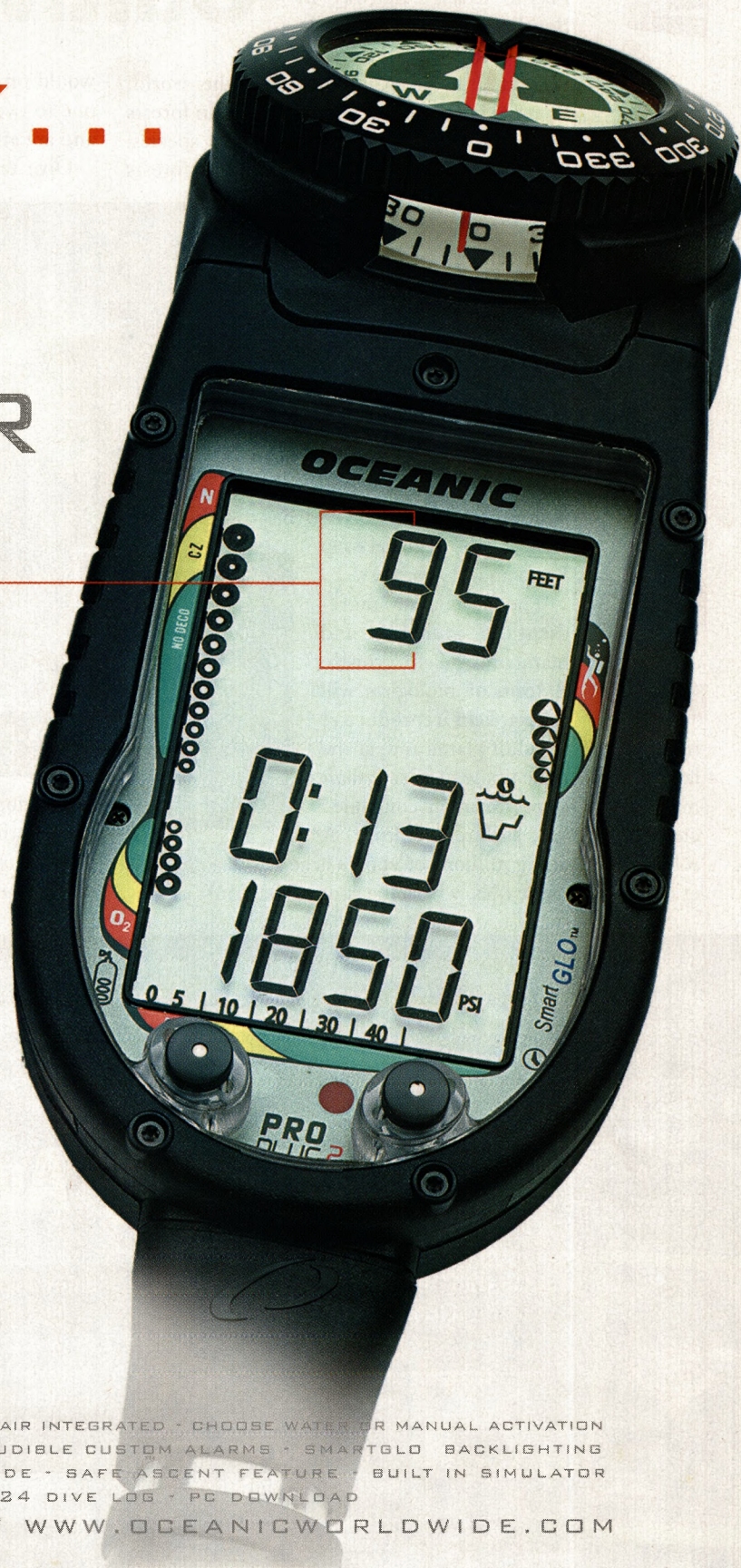
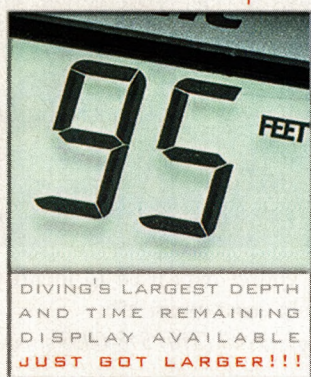
Check out these other well-respected organizations: the Ocean Conservancy (www.oceanconservancy.org), Earth Island Institute (www.earthisland.org), Coral Reef Alliance (www.coral.org) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org). All of these institutions have a long history of helping the public take action in improving the quality of our oceans.

Hope this helps.

—Richard Murphy, Ocean Futures Society, via e-mail

Send your "Letters to the Editor" to ryan.allen@skindivermag.com or fax to (323) 782-2112.

REALLY...
SIZE
DOES
MATTER




OCEANIC
PROPLUS2

PERSONAL DIVE COMPUTERS SINCE 1982 • AIR INTEGRATED • CHOOSE WATER OR MANUAL ACTIVATION
CUSTOMIZE YOUR DISPLAY • LED AND AUDIBLE CUSTOM ALARMS • SMARTGLO BACKLIGHTING
AIR OR NITROX • EXTENDED RANGE MODE • SAFE ASCENT FEATURE • BUILT IN SIMULATOR
AUTOMATIC SAFETY STOP REMINDER • 24 DIVE LOG • PC DOWNLOAD
TAKE A VIRTUAL DIVE @ WWW.OCEANICWORLDWIDE.COM

FREE FLOW

EDITED BY RYAN ALLEN

JUST OFFSHORE FROM the Pacific Coast Highway in Southern California exists one of the most unique, vibrant and majestic forests in the world. Giant kelp forests, often called the rain forests of the seas, support more than 800 species, including humans. Unfortunately, the forests have experienced a decreased of 80 percent, with some areas experiencing near complete destruction. Growth has been stunted and natural kelp regeneration is severely challenged.

However, there is good news on the horizon. The California CoastKeeper Alliance, in partnership with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has launched the Regional Kelp Restoration Laboratory.

The lab is a key ingredient in studying and maintaining kelp growth. A team of biologists will collect kelp reproductive tissue from wild adult plants and, at the lab, will induce the tissue to release their microscopic spores through controlled changes in light and temperature. A solution containing millions of spores is added to a container of small ceramic tiles, where the spores settle, just as they

Cultivating Kelp

would on healthy, rocky reef. When the plants have grown one to two inches tall, the tiles are transported to the ocean and are attached to reefs.

Dive teams conduct weekly maintenance dives of their



The opening of the "kelp lab" bodes well for the health of Southern California's kelp forests.



"adopted" kelp sites and collect data used to identify continued challenges to kelp ecosystems.

For more information, or to get involved call (310) 548-0983 or visit www.cacoastkeeper.org.

"UNDER THE WAVES," THE MARINE EDUCATION SERIES FOR children, has won a 2002 Telly Award for Best Children's Programming. Telly Awards annually recognize outstanding television commercials, video productions and films. "Under The Waves," a 13-part video series that educates kids about the beautiful life found in our oceans, is the brainchild of 1992 Olympic Gold Medallist and Swimming Hall of Fame member, Mike Barrowman.

"There have been many shows made about the underwater world," said Barrowman, Executive Director of the Grand Cayman-based Caribbean Producer Services. "But nothing that would keep the interest of young children—that's where 'Under The Waves' comes in. We are honored to be recognized by the Telly Awards for something that we feel so passionately about."

Intended for children ages 3 to 10, "Under The Waves" combines a cast of recurring characters with zany comedy, marine life identification segments and fun lessons about how important it is to appreciate and protect life under the waves. Shot entirely in the beautiful Cayman Islands, the show details several marine creatures per

The Telly Award Gets Wet

episode in an engaging way that children and parents can enjoy together.

"For me, witnessing the reactions of the kids watching the show is priceless," said Barrowman.

Jean-Michel Cousteau, famed ocean explorer, environmentalist and President of Ocean Futures Society congratulated Barrowman's accomplishment. "I applaud 'Under The Waves,'" said Cousteau, "And believe it will make a significant contribution to promoting ocean awareness and respect in the next generation."

Currently four episodes are complete and available through various outlets, as well as the "Under The Waves" website (www.underthewaves.tv).



Two Worlds...

...one Digital camera.



LAND & SEA®
Digital Underwater Camera System
200 ft/60m

Relax and enjoy.
Shoot, view, keep or delete,
with the One-Button Operation.
Never have a bad picture again.
Land & Sea exposure programs.
Expandable with all SeaLife® accessories.

Send family and friends e-mails instead of postcards.

The SeaLife® ReefMaster® Digital will revolutionize underwater photography.



SportDiver®
100 ft - \$99.95*



ReefMaster® RC
165 ft - \$189*



ReefMaster® RC PRO
165 ft - \$419*



ReefMaster® Digital
200 ft - \$549*



ReefMaster® DC PRO
200 ft - \$779*

From film to digital, easy to use and even easier to expand!

*Suggested retail price

Sealife
ReefMaster®
DIGITAL

www.sealife-cameras.com

Is Your Beach Clean? Find Out Here

TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, shore divers and beach goers will be able to find out easily whether their favorite ocean beach is clean enough for swimming or closed because of water pollution. By logging on to Oceana.org or Earth911.org, health advisory, beach closure and ocean pollution information will be

easy to access in one location.

Oceana and Earth 911 believe the public has a right to know whether the beaches they visit are safe. Until now, the complex structure of state, county and city governments, combined with various health and environmental agencies has made it difficult for people to even know where to start to find out about water quality at area beach-

es. Oceana and Earth 911 have partnered with state and local health and environmental agencies to establish the groundbreaking national Beach Reporting System (BRS), which compiles the most recent data on beach water quality across the country. The results of official government water tests are reported to the system and the new Web service presents the information in colorful, easy-to-read maps that link to descriptions of beach water quality on both organization's websites.

"Nothing spoils a summer day more than hearing that the beach where you are ready to swim, wade or surf is too polluted," said Jackie Savitz, director of Oceana's Pollution Campaign. "By checking Oceana.org, people can know



Now your friends smell even better.

Ah...the sweet smell of success, and nothing is sweeter than earning cash and discounts. Get three friends to complete their PADI Open Water class and we'll send you a check for \$100.00. With additional specials on travel, equipment and training, the world is your dive oyster. So what are you waiting for? Go to padi.com for details and your downloadable form today.



* PADI employees, PADI IRRA Members, PADI Professionals, and their employees and families are not eligible for this program. PADI is not responsible for any late, lost, or undelivered forms. This offer is valid in PADI Americas region only and expires 31 December 2002. All complete forms must be postmarked by 31 December 2002. See padi.com for official rules and restrictions.



Oceana.org offers a user-friendly design and color-coded maps that make finding information on water quality a breeze.

the beach is open for swimming before they go. Oceana.org also provides steps we can take to ensure that beach water will continue to be clean for our children and ourselves."

Oceana is a brand-new international environmental organization created for the sole purpose of protecting the world's oceans. In May, Oceana merged with the American Oceans Campaign continuing to bring together dedicated people from around the world to build an international move-

ment to save the oceans through public policy advocacy, science, economics, legal action, grassroots mobilization and public education.

Beach water quality is threatened by bacteria, viruses and toxic chemicals. Today, runoff pollution is a major reason that approximately 40 percent of U.S. waterways and coastlines fail to meet standards for swimming or fishing. Runoff pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation water runs over land, picks up pollutants along the way, and deposits them into rivers, lakes and coastal waters. The new Web service will offer facts on ocean pollution and community-specific resources to help reduce the impacts of runoff.

...the groundbreaking national Beach Reporting System (BRS)...compiles the most recent data on beach water quality across the country.

"After building the successful Earth 911 information system, it became obvious that the system would be a logical tool for government to provide this valuable information to the public," said Chris Warner, founder of Earth 911. "Partnering with Oceana in this endeavor has allowed us to leverage our strengths for the good of the public, and we are just so excited to be working with Oceana to get this system out there."

Earth 911 is a nationwide network of community-specific environmental resources and information available, delivering year-long local resources on recycling, household hazardous waste disposal, beach water quality and other environmental issues.

The BRS was created in response to the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (B.E.A.C.H.) Act of 2000 that

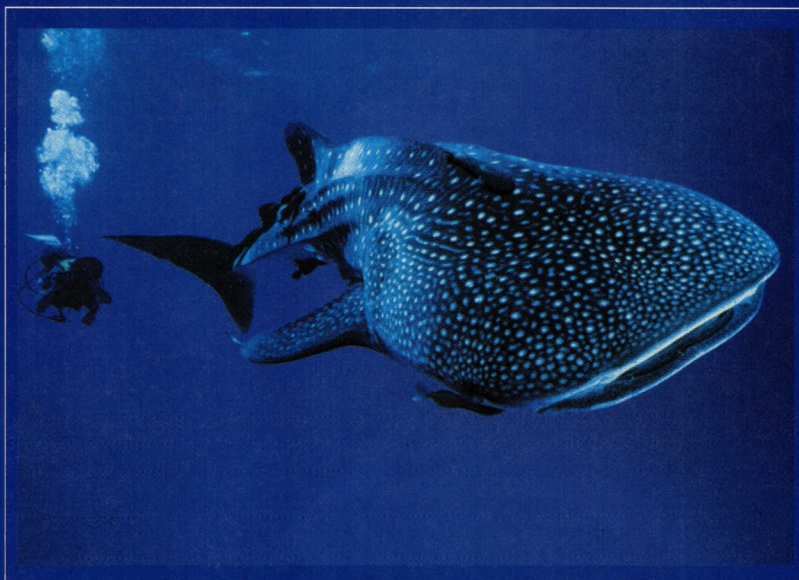
induced a consistent approach to public notification of water quality monitoring results. The BRS allows local health and environmental officials to notify the public of water quality sampling results and health determinations immediately as they are detected using both the Internet and a toll-free hotline. In the B.E.A.C.H. Act, Congress promised funding for states to monitor and notify the public, but full funding has not been provided to states. Full

funding is necessary to ensure that local governments have the tools they need to monitor and notify the public about whether it is safe to swim at local beaches. 

To get information about Oceana's Beach Water Quality Site, Media Center and other information resources are available at www.oceana.org or by calling toll-free (877) 7-OCEANA.

For more information on Earth 911, visit the Web at www.earth911.org or call toll-free (800) CLEANUP.

The Best Big-Animal Diving On Earth



Sea of Cortez Socorro Islands



Tired of nice little tropical fish? Looking for a heart stopping dive? Come dive with the Big Boys aboard the luxurious SOLMAR V. Giant Mantas, Dolphins, Hammerheads, Whalesharks, Sea Lions and more...

THE BEST BIG-ANIMAL DIVING ON EARTH.

800-344-3349

310-459-9861

Internet Specials at
www.solmar.com
caboresort@aol.com

Diving
Provided
by

www.amigosdelmar.com

© SD/AD 0208

FEW DIVERS ARE PRIVILEGED to visit unexplored sites. More often than not, we content ourselves with stories, and despite the wonders we see on every dive, we can't help feeling that in earlier decades, before crowds and pollution, things must have been better under the waves.

It's enough to give diving a bittersweet quality.

Well, there is one place where this is not the case. Plans are underway for a Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.

Hawaiian Sanctuary— Good News for the Environment and Divers

BY JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU

chain, with its world-renowned resorts and beaches, and extend 1,200 miles, from Kure Atoll to Necker Island. Their coral reefs rival Australia's Great Barrier Reef, accounting for 70 percent of all corals in U.S. territorial

The Northwest Hawaiian Islands are a prime habitat for Green Sea Turtles and more than 7,000 marine species.

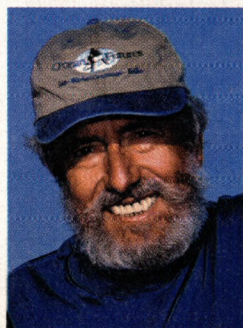


Haven't heard of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands? That's not surprising. The chain of atolls, seamounts, sandbars and shoals is practically unknown.

The islands lie 130 miles from the main Hawaiian

waters, including 51 species of stony coral and another eight of soft coral and anemones.

There are more than 7,000 marine species here, but the islands are mainly prized for their endemics—



Haven't heard of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands?... The islands lie 130 miles from the main Hawaiian chain.... Their coral reefs rival Australia's Great Barrier Reef, accounting for 70 percent of all corals in U.S. territorial waters....

DOLPHIN SCUBA CAMP

\$600* per child

Swim with Dolphins, horseback ride,
PADI scuba learning programs.

Ages 5-9 SASY, Bubblemakers

Ages 10-14 Jr. Scuba Diver

Certification

Thanksgiving Nov. 24 - 29

Christmas Dec. 22-27, 2002

Summer 2003



Roatan • Bay Islands
Honduras

*All-inclusive dive and snorkel packages featuring a variety
of activities for the entire family.*

For reservations call

888-888-5415 • 954.929.0090 • akr@anthonyskey.com

www.anthonyskey.com

*\$600 per child rate is based on maximum 1 child per adult, staying in the same room. 16% hotel tax not included.

**7 Night all-inclusive dive and snorkel
packages from \$599*per person**

DIVE FOR MILES!

September 7 to December 21, 2002



Roatan • Bay Islands
Honduras

Complete your PADI Open Water Certification and earn 1,000 American Airlines AAdvantage miles this fall at AKR.** Our PADI Gold Palm 5-Star Resort offers an array of PADI instruction from novice to expert.

Select from the following courses to earn AAdvantage miles:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • PADI Open Water Certification | 1,000 miles |
| • PADI Open Water Referral | 500 miles |
| • Discover Scuba Diving | 500 miles |
| • Underwater Photography
or Videography | 500 miles |
| • Underwater Photography &
Videography Combo | 1,000 miles |
| • IDC | 1,000 miles |



For reservations call **888-888-5415 • 954.929.0090 • akr@anthonyskey.com**

www.anthonyskey.com

*\$599 rate is per person, double occupancy in Hill Standard room. Valid for travel Sept, Oct, Nov 1-23, Dec. 1-21, 2002, Jan. 4-31, 2003.

**Dive for miles offer valid for courses taken Sept. 7 to Dec. 21, 2002. Other restrictions apply. 16% hotel tax not included.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Grand Cayman • Cayman Brac • Little Cayman

GRAND CAYMAN

Packages from \$555 pp
The Anchorage Condos
Villas of the Galleon
Sunshine Suites
Hyatt Regency
Fisheye Diving

CAYMAN BRAC

Packages from \$777 pp
Divi Tiara Beach Resort
Brac Reef Beach Resort
Conch Club Condos

LITTLE CAYMAN

Packages from \$895 pp
Little Cayman Beach Resort
Paradise Villas



Caribbean Adventures
World Dive Adventures
DIVE TRAVEL

worlddive.com
1.800.433.DIVE
cayman@worlddive.com

ENVIRONMENT

nearly half of all life forms found in the islands are found nowhere else, giving this area the highest percentage of endemism on the planet.

The reef residents are also rare. The islands are home to the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal, of which perhaps only 1,400 remain. Nearly all Green Sea Turtles nest and mate at French Frigate Shoal. These may number only in the hundreds. Other threatened turtles, like the Leatherback and Hawksbill, are also found here.

The wonders don't stop at the surface. Some 14 million birds, representing 18 species, are at home here. Many of these are both endemic and threatened, including the Laysan duck and the Nihoa finch.

Challenges are small. They are being addressed by an Advisory Council made up of native Hawaiians, researchers, conservationists, commercial and recreational fishermen, as well as representatives from tourism, education and government.

A sanctuary can only succeed if people care. That means educating future generations on the value of conserving wild places. It also means enforcing environmental laws, and continuing to gather information, so that our understanding and appreciation may nourish one another. The Council has wisely incorporated these elements into its plan.

One lesson that should be learned from other sanctuaries is the value of Reserve Protected Areas (RPAs)—zones of critical ecological sensitivity that require restrictions on fishing and

One lesson that should be learned from other sanctuaries is the value of Reserve Protected Areas (RPAs)—zones of critical ecological sensitivity that require restrictions on fishing and other extractive activities.

The idea to protect these and other wonders goes back to the Clinton Administration. Stirred by worldwide declines in coral reefs, the former President issued an Executive Order at the end of 2000 to declare the islands a marine reserve.

The incoming Bush administration challenged the process at first, but after more serious review has decided to proceed. In another two to three years, the area could enjoy the protections of a full-fledged marine sanctuary—the nation's 14th.

But even in this most far-flung of locations, the human footprint is not absent.

Military operations have left contaminated sediments and PCB-laden landfills. In addition, over a thousand tons of marine debris has washed ashore here, cast off from the international fishing industry.

The good news is that, compared to the size of the area involved, these chal-

other extractive activities. Given the importance and fragility of endemic ecosystems, this kind of protection is absolutely essential here.

At present, there are 15 RPAs in the proposed sanctuary. The first round of public scopings recommended they be made permanent. This advice should be heeded, and expanded as research demands.

The Northwest Hawaiian Islands have given U.S. citizens an unusual opportunity: To save an ecosystem before it needs restoration. The comment period, now underway, is a time for expert and everyman to express an opinion on whether these islands should become a marine sanctuary. It is my sincere hope that the citizens will seize this historic moment, and recommend that the area be protected to the fullest possible extent.

For more information, visit www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov. 

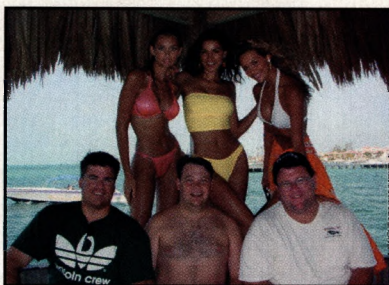


*Mother Nature's
best kept secret*



Ramon's Village Resort..... A Scuba Diver's Paradise!!!

Dive the largest barrier reef in the Northern Hemisphere from our PADI Gold Palm IDC Resort! Marvel at the hundreds of dive sites just minutes away and experience the oceanic glories of Belize. Ramon's Village Resort features authentic thatched roof and air-conditioned cabanas, lagoon-style pool, beachside restaurant, gift shop, stunning tropical grounds and the largest dive operation on the island of Ambergris Caye. Just a five minute walk to downtown San Pedro! Call today for a free brochure or to book your trip!



Toll-Free: 1-800-MAGIC 15
www.ramons.com • info@ramons.com

Visit our websites at:

www.ramons.com • www.oldcorral.com • www.headricks.com
www.snowymountainlodge.com



Toll-Free Reservations & Info: 1-800-MAGIC 15
Website: www.ramons.com
Email: info@ramons.com



Dive Adventures and Island Vacations

FULL RANGE OF HOTEL

DIVE PACKAGES

DISCOUNT AIRFARE AVAILABLE

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-599-3483

www.bayadventures.com
info@bayadventures.com

© SDAD 0210

FIJI ISLANDS

Matangi Island Resort - Fiji

Discover the magic of Matangi Island Resort located in Fiji's fantastic North! Come embrace a little diving, culture and relaxation at our shores. Indulge in our treehouse bures you deserve Matangi

1-888-628-2644 •
www.matangiisland.com

TRIP-N-TOUR

DIVE/TRAVEL EXPERTS OF FIJI

1-800-348-0842 • www.trip-n-tour.com
Call for our FREE full color brochure!

Reef Rainforest

DIVE & ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Let our experience be your guide to the friendly isles of Fiji

1-800-794-9767

415-289-1760

E-mail: fiji@reefrainforest.com
www.reefrainforest.com

Cruise in Luxury - Dive in Paradise



Imagine...7 days and 6 nights in a tropical paradise!
Experience the ultimate combination - sensational diving, up to 15 dives in the 7 days, with the flexibility for you and your partner to enjoy all the activities of the award winning Blue Lagoon Cruises.

Departs first Sat of each month, returns Fri. US\$1499 + VAT for divers & US\$999 + VAT for non-diving partner.

e-mail: blc@connect.com.fj **DEMA BOOTH #1819**
www.cruiseinluxurydiveinparadise.com

AIR FIJI TO DIVE

877-FIJI DIVE (345 4348)
e-mail: info@fiji-travelalliance.com
www.fiji-travelalliance.com

DIVE WITH TROPICAL DIVE (FIJI SCUBA)

DISCOVER THE MAGICAL DIVING...

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF MATANGI ISLAND...

DISCOVER THE MYSTERY OF THE FIJI ISLANDS!

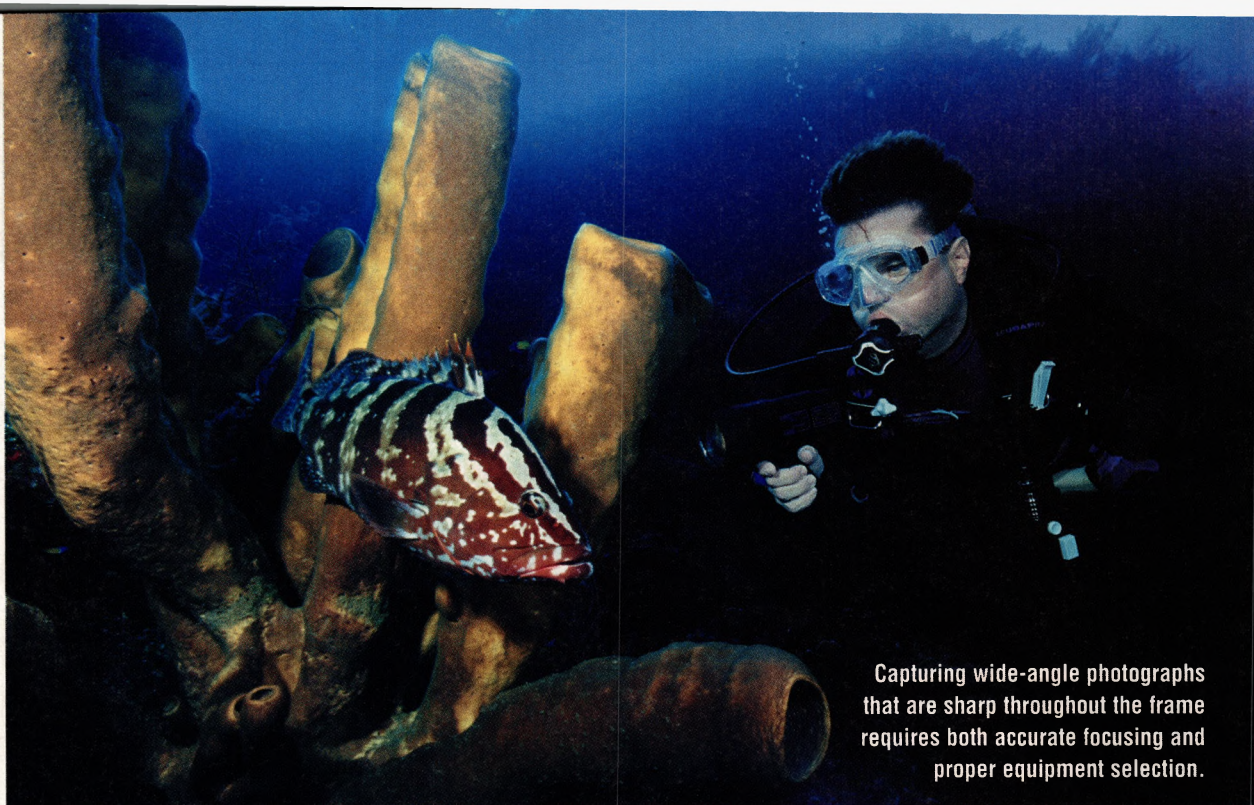
www.MatangiDive.com fijiscuba@connect.com.fj

NAIA Effortless Adventure

Naia dives the world's most beautiful coral reefs.

Howard Hall, filmmaker

www.naia.com.fj
explore@naia.com.fj
1-866-776-5572



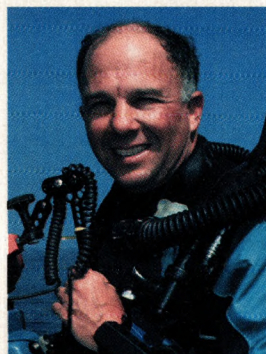
Staying Sharp While Going Wide

BY MARTY SNYDERMAN

Recently, I bought a wide-angle lens for my SLR system, but the photographs I am getting are not as sharp as I thought they would be. Do I need to use a diopter or what's up here?— Paul A., Virginia Beach, VA

EXACTLY WHY A WIDE-ANGLE IMAGE DOES NOT APPEAR TO be sharply focused can be due to a number of factors. As a result, getting a wide-angle, single lens reflex (SLR) camera system dialed in requires some equipment knowledge, analytical thinking and double checking before dives. Here is what I suggest for Paul or any wide-angle SLR shooter (film or digital) that is unhappy with the sharpness of a wide-angle photograph.

For starters, consider the lens that was used and the selected aperture, or f/stop. Not all lenses are equally sharp. In addition, with many lenses there is a big difference in terms of sharpness when the same lens is used at different f/stops. With many lenses, the area toward the corners of the images might lack sharp focus at some f/stops but not others—even though the centers of the images appear to be tack sharp at all f/stops.



For example, with my Nikon 14 mm lens the corners of my images are soft at f/2.8, f/4 and f/5.6, but they are just fine when using f/stops f/8 and smaller. So when I use my 14 mm lens, I try to put myself in a situation where I can use f/8 to f/22. Other lens-

es, such as my Nikon 24 mm lens, are very sharp from corner to corner, even when wide open at f/2.8. Be aware, if a lens isn't sharp on land at a given f/stop, it won't be sharp underwater, but if it is sharp on land, then you should be able to dial it in with your underwater system. If the center area of the image isn't sharp, then odds are that the lens was just not properly focused when you tripped the shutter.

Assuming the lens is performing up to its design specifications, you need to consider other factors. In wide-angle photography a "corrected dome port" is used to correct for, or eliminate, refraction so that a lens maintains its topside angle of view. But all dome ports are not the same. It is very important to use the right dome port with a selected lens as suggested by the housing manufacturer.

In addition, you might need to use a diopter for that lens and port combination as suggested by the housing manufacturer. A diopter is an optical accessory that, when placed over the front of a lens, moves a lens' minimum focus distance closer to the camera's film plane so that objects that are very close to the lens can be in sharp focus. Why is that important? Because the use of a dome port in water creates a "virtual image" that the lens must focus on to create sharp images.

While a subject such as a shark might be 12 feet away from the film plane, a lens used behind a dome port "sees" the object being photographed as only being 15 inches away

For the Ultimate in Scuba Travel throughout the World...

Let our All-Diver Staff find that Perfect Dive Vacation

FIJI



DIVE KADAVU

Kadavu is one of the most beautiful islands in all of Fiji. Accommodations are in comfortable Fijian style bureas. Kadavu has many remarkable sights. Rain Forest capped hills behind the resort offer many hiking trails. Diving, snorkeling, kayaking, wind surfing, or just relaxing on their beautiful white sand beach directly in front of the resort go hand-in-hand at Kadavu. A true Fijian village located within about a 10-minute walk from the resort is a must-visit. With a wonderful staff of friendly faces to come with the package, this is truly one of the best values in Fiji. Packages should be reserved as far in advance as possible!

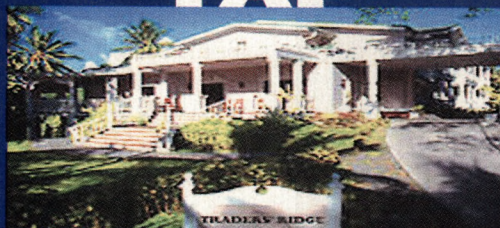
BELIZE



PLAYA BLANCA BEACH CLUB & GAZ COOPER'S DIVE BELIZE

This brand NEW dive resort is located on a beautiful white sand beach just North of San Pedro town Ambergris Caye. Offering 1,2 and 3 bedroom beach front condos and tropical beach casitas this small resort focus's on small dive groups and a very hands on personal service, you will not find any cattle boats at Gaz Cooper's the limit is just 6-8 divers per boat max. You will dive all the best sites Ambergris caye has to offer plus the opportunity to visit the famed Blue Hole and the offshore Atolls. If your looking to escape the crowds then the Playa Blanca Beach Club and Gaz Cooper's is just the ticket.

YAP



TRADERS RIDGE

Traders Ridge is the only 5 star resort on the island of YAP! With competitive prices to all other resorts on YAP! The only swimming pool on YAP! Personal room steward assigned to your room for your convenience. Resort is styled in unique 1800's Victorian architecture. Cultural tours arranged at resort as well. Come see the famous Manta Rays of YAP and stay in style. Sea Kayaking available at resort as well, as world class diving. This is a perfect combination trip with Palau as well. Call and book your space today!

PALAU



BIG BLUE EXPLORER

A true wonder of the world, with some of the most diverse marine life on the planet. The Big Blue Explorer is the latest live-aboard to sail here. It is also one of the most affordable live-aboards in Palau. At 167 ft. in length it is an extremely stable vessel and is a great choice for either first time live-aboard divers or advanced divers. 9 private cabins with private bathroom facilities, also offering hot and cold water and air-conditioning controlled in each cabin. Meals are served buffetstyle and are excellent! Ocean Kayaks are on board for your pleasure, snorkeling can easily be done from this vessel as well. This boat ONLY takes 18 divers so make your reservations early!

Bahamas

Belize

Bonaire

Caymans

Costa Rica

Cozumel

Curacao

Dominica

Galapagos

Guam

Honduras

Fiji

Palau

Truk

Turks &

Caicos

Solomons

St. Lucia

Yap



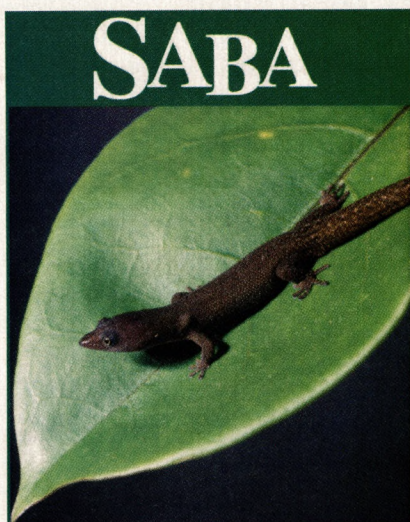
**ULTIMATE
DIVE
TRAVEL**

CALL: 1-800-737-DIVE (3483)

PHONE: 630-972-2320 OR FAX: 630-972-2329

EMAIL: udive@ultimatedivetravel.com

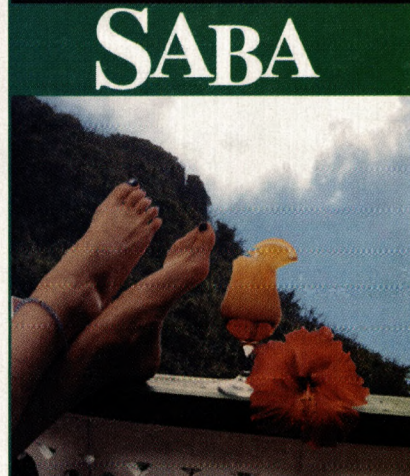
CHECK OUR WEB SITE: www.ultimatedivetravel.com



SABA



SABA



*Rainforest, Reefs & Relax
in the Dutch Caribbean*



www.sabatourism.com
Tel: 011-599-416-2231
Fax: 011-599-416-2350

ASK THE PRO

because of the creation of a virtual image. The lens with diopter attached must be able to focus on the plane of the virtual image.

If you are not familiar with the concept of a virtual image, this discussion can be a little unsettling, but the good news is you don't have to understand all of the intricate details of the physics involved. What you do need to realize is that a lens used behind a dome port must be able to focus on the virtual image. So it's important to get the correct diopter for the job.

One reason that the same lens might use different diopters, or no diopter, with different ports is that the diameter of the sphere that the

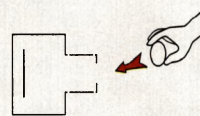
and the stronger the diopter that must be used. This means that you might use the same lens with a stronger +4 diopter in one manufacturer's housing with one port, a +2 diopter with another port, and no diopter at all with an even larger diameter port or another manufacturer's housing and port. Be sure to check your housing manufacturer's suggestions to make sure you have the right diopter for the selected port and lens.

Finally, when analyzing image sharpness be sure that the water conditions allowed objects in the distance to appear sharp. In limited visibility this is not always possible no matter how well matched the lens/diopter/port combination is.

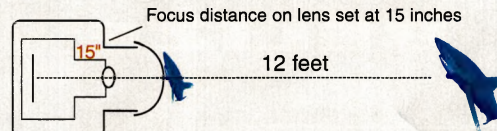
In closing, the main points to con-

A phenomenon of physics is that a curved port used in water creates a "virtual image" that is located much closer to the film plane than the subject is. To capture sharp images, lenses used behind dome ports must focus on the virtual image. The use of the correct diopter reduces a lens' minimum

focus distance allowing focus on the virtual image. The use of a flat port does not create a virtual image. However, a flat port narrows a lens' angle of view defeating the purpose of using a wide-angle lens.



Place a diopter over the wide-angle lens when lens is used behind a dome port



In this example, the shark is actually 12 feet from the film plane. The dome port creates a virtual image only 15 inches from the film plane. To create a sharp image the lens/diopter combination must be able to focus down to 15 inches so it can record the virtual image.

port is "cut out of" coupled with the distance that the port sits from the optical center of the lens determines exactly where the virtual image will be. The bigger the curvature of the dome, the farther away the virtual image is from the film plane. A smaller diameter dome creates a virtual image that is closer to the film plane,

consider when trying to be sure wide-angle images created with a housed SLR camera will be in sharp focus are as follows: Be sure that (1) the lens you are using is capable of producing sharp images in the corners at the selected apertures, and (2) you have the correct diopter and port combination for the lens and housing you are using. 🐟

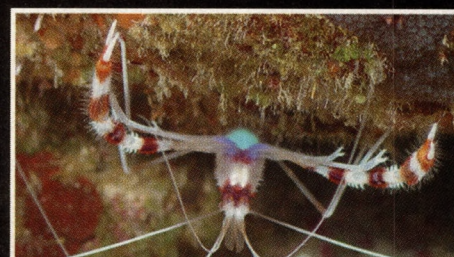
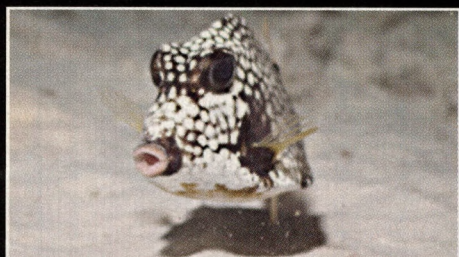
WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY?

Take an online course at Marty Snyderman's School of Underwater Photography at www.skin-diver.com. This comprehensive course consists of nine interactive classes taken at your convenience.

www.amphibico.com



Credits: Sylvain Marcotte
Bruce Carlson

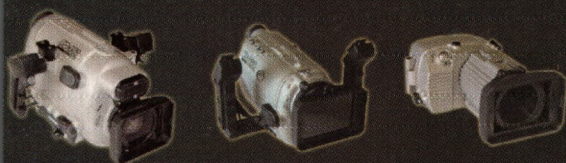


Images... even better than the real thing®

Underwater Imaging Equipment... Diver Designed®

Amphibico's Professional line of products are designed and engineered for the true working professional. Our products are developed with precision and manufactured from the highest grade of materials, guaranteeing your satisfaction. Furthermore, Amphibico has now entered the world of digital still photography.

Since 1988, Amphibico has developed equipment in order to make the art of underwater imaging more friendly and more enjoyable. Depending on your needs, Amphibico proposes a large line of products which can accommodate a vast range of video camera models.



AMPHIBICO

Images... even better than the real thing®

PROFESSIONAL



AMPHIBICO

Underwater Imaging Equipment... Diver Designed®

RECREATIONAL

ENCOUNTERS

IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT I HAVE SWAMPED a cooperative animal behavior known as “nuclear hunting” a few hundred times without taking notice. But after my wife Anna documented an episode on video and we became familiar with how and why the fish work together while feeding, we began seeing the behavior regularly.

Under normal circumstances healthy reef fish are nearly impossible to take as prey. To succeed and, in effect, survive, piscivores (fish eaters) must find an advantage. Small groupers and other reef predators, such as Trumpetfish, Mutton Snapper and Bar Jacks, have learned to increase their capture rates by hunting in confederation with Spotted or Goldentail Morays, the only two species of Caribbean morays that hunt regularly during daylight hours.

Hiding holes in the reef keep small fish safe from all major predators except one, the eel. Morays, with long, slender, malleable bodies and one of the keenest senses of smell in the animal kingdom, are well-suited for home invasions. When a feeding eel slips inside a coral head, hiding fish know exactly where the exits are located; but if their escape is blocked by a hungry grouper mouth, the victims panic and bounce around inside the dark like pinballs—an abnormal situation and a predator’s dream.

After closely observing nuclear hunting on several occasions (once with seven participants) a pattern began to emerge. While the moray forays inside the reef, its cohorts hover near the entrance or lay motionlessly on the sand poised to make a strike at fleeing prey. When the eel emerges from the reef it nearly always pauses in the opening and waits for a grouper to position

WHERE TO FIND IT

Nuclear (or cooperative) hunting occurs in tropical waters around the world.



A Confederation of Mouths

BY NED AND ANNA DELOACH,
WITH PAUL HUMANN

itself next to its head before the moray makes a dash for the next hunting hole. In every instance, the contact fish shadows the moray as it races across open bottom. It appears that the fish are cooperating to insure that they arrive at the next site simultaneously. The grouper

blocks an exit as the eel invades the interior.

We have since sighted Caribbean piscivores hunting with the Common Octopus and the Sharptail Eel, and have read accounts of similar behavior from the Gulf of California and the Red Sea. 🐟

BONAIRE

*Where
Vacationing
Is Easy*



BELMAR RESORT

Luxury Apartments - fully equipped kitchens, A/C bedrooms & spectacular views of the Caribbean from your oversized balcony. Pool at the ocean's edge, set among lush tropical landscaped gardens. **Toucan Diving at Belmar** - offering boat dive packages or 24-hours a day unlimited shore diving right from our private dock. 2-for-1 Special & Free Car: 8/24-10/5/02.

Call: (800)992-2015 or (305)378-8793

Email: info@icon-hotels.com • Website: www.belmar-bonaire.com



BON BINI DIVERS

Known for high levels of personal service, this SSI, SDI, and PADI ★★★★★ Gold Palm Resort offers daily boat dives, drive-thru shore diving, instruction including technical diving, and specialized kids programs. By popular request, 2002 brings a fast boat to Bon Bini Divers! Use our in-house reservation service for all your on-island needs.

Telephone: 011 (599) 717-5425 • Fax: 011 (599) 717-4425

Reservations Phone/Fax: 011 (599) 717-3499

Email: info@bonbinidivers.com • Web: www.bonbinidivers.com



BUDDY DIVE RESORT

Eat, Sleep, (Buddy) Dive! A PADI ★★★★★ ocean-front resort known for its casual atmosphere, personable staff and spacious accommodations. The Dive & Activities Center offers a unique drive-thru air & Nitrox fill station, kayaks, bikes, and more. Buddy Reef is just a giant stride away, as are the dive boats and rental trucks.

Reservations: Ultimate Dive Travel 1-800-737-DIVE

Email: Info@buddydive.com • Website: www.buddydive.com • Tel: 011 (599) 717-5080



CAPTAIN DON'S HABITAT

Diving 24 hours a day, 365 days a year... "the home of diving freedom". Lively reefs & wrecks 90 feet off our shore. Choice of cottages, deluxe junior suites and oceanfront villas. Introducing our new "Eco-Tours" program. Technical Divers, we're your home on Bonaire, first with Nitrox, first with Re-breathers and Tri-Mix. PADI ★★★★★ Instructor Development Center and a TDI Training Center.

Reservations & Information: Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas (800) 327-6709 • Tel: (305) 438-4222
Fax: (305) 438-4220 • Email: info@maduro.com • Website: www.HabitatDiveResorts.com

American Airlines/American Eagle, Air Jamaica and DCA serve Bonaire from the U.S.
We're closer than you think...only 2 1/2 hours by air from Miami!

www.InfoBonaire.com



1-800-BONAIRE

26

UC

UNDERWATER CRUISE

FIND YOUR ELEMENT IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

From the exhilaration of Bloody Bay Wall to the fun of Stingray City, whatever your element, you'll find it in the sparkling waters of the Cayman Islands. Call 1 (800) 4-CAYMAN or visit our web site (caymanislands.ky/h2go) to order your free Cayman Islands H2GO Vacation Planning Guide. Inside you'll discover everything you need to plan a world-class dive vacation, including a "MY ELEMENT" card good for special rates on equipment rentals, underwater photography and more. Request your Planning Guide now, and you could win a free Cayman Islands H2GO vacation. And find adventure, find excitement, find yourself in the Cayman Islands.



CAYMAN ISLANDS
Grand Cayman • Cayman Brac • Little Cayman

FIND YOUR ELEMENT IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.

Perhaps you'll find it in yourself as you glide along the Caribbean's most dramatic sea walls. Or in someone you love as, together, you stroll along our white sand beaches. Maybe you'll find it in a new friend, an old face or just a warm familiar feeling. It's your element and, this summer, we invite you to find it in the Cayman Islands. Just call 1-800-4 CAYMAN, Ext. 0 or visit our web site (www.caymanislands.ky/h2go) to receive your "MY ELEMENT" card, which you can use to enjoy special rates on dining, attractions, water sports, dive trips, shopping and more.



FIND YOUR ELEMENT AND YOU COULD FIND YOURSELF WITH ONE OF THESE GREAT PRIZES EACH MONTH

GRAND PRIZE: a trip for two to the Cayman Islands.

Second prize: a SeaLife SL121 Digital DC200 underwater camera.

5 Third prizes: SeaLife SportDiver SL545 underwater cameras.

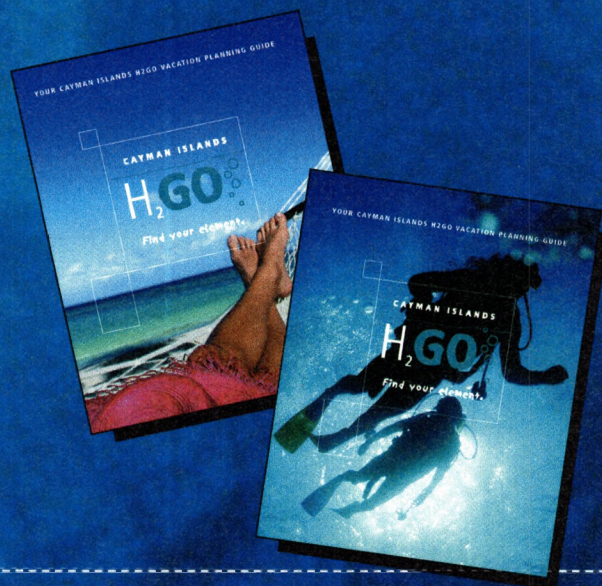


SeaLife
underwater cameras

CAYMAN ISLANDS

H₂GO

Find your element.



ANSWER THESE 3 QUESTIONS, AND YOU CAN ENTER TO WIN A FREE CAYMAN ISLANDS VACATION!

Find the answers to the questions below in your free "Cayman Islands H2GO Vacation Planning Guide" or on our web site (www.caymanislands.ky/h2go). Send in your answers for a chance to win a free Cayman Islands vacation.

1. Name one of the Cayman Islands "Sister Islands."
2. What is the name of the world's most famous spot to swim with the stingrays? (Hint: You'll find it in the waters around Grand Cayman.)
3. What year did Christopher Columbus discover the Cayman Islands? (Hint: Check out "Cayman by the Numbers.")

See official rules on back for details including entry methods and eligibility requirements.

OFFICIAL RULES

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN A PRIZE. A PURCHASE WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

1. Sweepstakes open to legal residents of the US and Wash. DC age 18 or older. The Cayman Islands H2GO "Find your element" Sweepstakes (the "Sweepstakes") begins at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on 5/1/02 and ends 11:59 p.m. (ET) on 10/31/02 ("Entry Period"). There will be six monthly drawings during the Entry Period. HOW TO ENTER: There are three methods of entry. Entry Method #1: To enter online, visit the www.caymanislands.ky/h2go web site and follow all online entry instructions, including completing and submitting the online entry form and answering all sweepstakes questions. Online entries must be received by 11:59 PM (ET) on 10/31/02. Entry Method #2: To enter by mail with an official entry form, hand print your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and your answers to the sweepstakes questions requested on official entry form, insert in envelope and mail to P.O. Box address in Method #3. Entry Method #3: To enter by mail without an official entry form, hand-print your name, address, telephone number, email address and your answers to the sweepstakes questions on a postcard and mail to: The Cayman Islands H2GO "Find Your Element" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 9179, Medford, NY 11763-9179. All mail-in entries must be postmarked by 10/31/02 and received by 11/7/02. Answers to the sweepstakes questions can be found online at www.caymanislands.ky/h2go or in our H2GO Vacation Planning Guide. To obtain a free guide, call 1-800-4-CAYMAN, ext. 0 between 9 AM 5 PM (ET) during Mon. - Fri. [All requests for guides must be received by 5 PM (ET) on 9/27/02]. To be eligible for a given monthly drawing, answers to the sweepstakes questions must be correct. All entries become the property of Sponsor and will not be returned or acknowledged. Limit: One received email or mail-in entry per person per month. In the event of a dispute over the identity of an online entrant, entry will be deemed submitted by the holder of the e-mail account. Mass entries or entries generated by a script, macro or use of automated devices will be disqualified. No mechanical reproductions permitted. Photocopied or incomplete entries are void. PRIZES/ODDS: Six (6) Grand Prizes (one awarded per month during the Entry Period) of a 7 nights/ 6 days trip for two to Cayman Islands are guaranteed to be awarded. Approximate retail value (ARV) of each trip prize: \$3,500.00; depending in location of winner and fares at time of departure. Each trip prize includes round-trip coach airfare to/from the winner's primary residence, double occupancy hotel accommodations and 6 daily local diving trips for winner plus 1 guest. Travel must be completed within 10 months from date the prize is awarded. Parent or legal guardian must accompany a traveling minor. Travel subject to availability and certain blackout dates may apply. Six (6) Second Prizes (one awarded per month during the Entry Period): A SeaLife121 Digital DC 200 Underwater Camera (ARV: \$549.95 each). Thirty (30) Third Prizes (five awarded per month during the Entry Period): A SeaLife 545 SportDiver Underwater Camera (ARV: \$100.00 each). Maximum ARV of all prizes: \$26,299.70. Prizes are not transferable or redeemable for cash and no substitution of prize by a winner is permitted. All taxes and any other incidental expenses are the sole responsibility of each winner. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received per monthly drawing, estimated at 1-266,667. WINNER SELECTION: One winner will be selected per month for a total of six months beginning on 5/1/02 and ending on 10/31/02. The first entry containing the correct answers to the sweepstakes questions that is selected at random from among all eligible entries received during that month will be declared that month's winner. Each monthly random drawing will be held within 15 days of the end of that month. Limit: one prize per person. To be eligible for a given monthly drawing your online entry must be received between 12:01 AM (ET) on the first day of the month and 11:59 PM (ET) on the last day of that given month. Your mail-in entry must be postmarked between the first day of that month and the last day of that given month and received within 7 days thereafter. For any given mail-in entry deadline that falls on a Sunday or federal holiday, those entries will also be accepted on the next business day. If during any month no entries are received for the monthly drawing, that month's prize will be awarded as an additional prize in the following month, provided a sufficient number of entries are received for that month. This process will be repeated until all monthly prizes are awarded. If no entries are received for the last monthly drawing, then the final monthly prize will be awarded from among all eligible entries received in the previous months. WINNER NOTIFICATION: All random drawings will be conducted under supervision of an independent judging organization whose decisions are final and binding. Each winner will be notified by mail, or phone or email within 14 days after the drawing. To be declared a winner, all potential winners must complete & return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within 14 days of date specified on notification, or an alternate winner will be selected. Travel companion must execute a travel release prior to travel. Winner and travel companion are responsible for obtaining proper documentation (i.e., passports) prior to travel. Prizes will be awarded within 30 days after prize notification or receipt of properly executed affidavit. If an affidavit or prize notification is returned as undeliverable, it will result in disqualification, and the corresponding prize will be awarded to an alternate winner in a separate random drawing from all non-winning eligible entries. Entry & acceptance of prize constitute permission to use a winner's name, prize won, hometown & likeness for promotional purposes without further compensation, except where prohibited by law. ADDITIONAL RULES: Entrants assume all liability for any injury, loss or damage caused or claimed to be caused by your participation in the Sweepstakes and/or the acceptance, awarding, receipt, use and/or misuse of any prize, and release Sponsor, its respective affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, employees and agents, and all others associated with the development and execution of this sweepstakes from any such liability. Winners acknowledge that Sponsor and all other companies concerned with this sweepstakes and their agents do not make, nor are in any manner responsible for, any warranty, representations, expressed or implied, in fact or in law, relative to the quality, conditions or fitness of any aspects of the prizes. Sponsor does not make, nor in any manner will be responsible for, any warranty, representation or guarantee relating to the camera prizes; provided, however, all prizes will be subject to the manufacturer's standard warranty. LIST OF WINNERS: For a list of winners (available after 12/31/02), send a stamped, self-addressed stamped envelope by 10/31/02 to: "Find your element" Sweepstakes Winners, P.O. Box 9183, Medford, NY 11763-9183. SPONSOR: Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, The Pavilion, Cricket Square, P.O. Box 67 GT, George Town, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

To enter: complete information below
and answer questions on reverse side.

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone ()

e-mail (optional)

Have you ever visited the Cayman Islands?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you ever visited the Caribbean?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Mail in a stamped envelope to:
Cayman Islands H2GO "Find your element" Sweepstakes
PO Box 9179
Medford, NY 11763-9179

Sweepstakes ends: 10/31/02

PARTICIPATING CAYMAN ISLANDS H2GO PARTNERS.

Sponsors:

Sunshine Suites Resort-A Summerfield Suites by Wyndham, On the Bay Condos, The Club at Little Cayman, Brac Aquatics, Cayman Diving Lodge, Sunset House and Sunset Divers, Beach Club Colony, Spanish Bay Reef Resort, Cayman Inn and Resort and Diver's Down, Treasure Island Resort and Bob Soto's Reef Divers, Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman and Red Sail Sports, Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort and Red Sail Sports, Comfort Suites and Don Foster's Dive, Cobalt Coast Resort and Dive Tech.

Participants:

Hotels

Brac Reef Beach Resort, Beach Club Colony Resort, Cayman Inn & Resort, Cobalt Coast Resort & Suites, Comfort Suites, Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort, Holiday Inn Resort, Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, Indies Suites, Little Cayman Beach Resort, Morritt's Tortuga Club & Resort, Seaview Hotel & Dive Resort, Spanish Bay Reef Resort, Sunset House, Sunshine Suites Resort - a Summerfield Suites by Wyndham, The Reef, Treasure Island Resort, Westin Casuarina Hotel.

Condos

Britannia Villas, Christopher Columbus Condos, Crescent Point Condos, Discovery Point Club, Lacovia Condominiums, Regal Beach Club, Seagull Condominiums, Tamarind Bay Condos, Treasure Island Condominiums, Villas of the Galleon.

Restaurants

Almond Tree/Tree House, Britannia, Casa Havana, Castaways, Chicken! Chicken!, Cimboco, Cracked Conch, David's Restaurant, Deckers, DJ's Restaurant & Cantina, Duppies, Eats Cafe, Edoardo's Restaurant, Ferdinands, Governor's Terrace Restaurant, Grille Restaurant, Hemmingways, Lazy Lizard, Lighthouse Restaurant, Lobster Pot Restaurant, London House, Lone Star Bar & Grill, Mangrove Grill, Naked Fish Restaurant, Outback Steakhouse, Peninsula Restaurant, Rum Point Restaurant, Seagrape Café, Seaharvest Restaurant, Smugglers Cove, Stingers Bar & Restaurant, Subway, Windows Lounge.

Watersports

Aquanauts Diving, Atlantis Submarine Adventures Cayman, Bayside Watersports, Black Princess Charters, Bob Soto's Reef Divers, Capt. Crosby's Watersports, Capt. Don's Cayman Diver, Captain Marvin's Watersports, Cayman Delight Cruises, Cayman Diving Lodge, Cayman Submariners, DiveTech, Divi Dive & Photo Tiara - Cayman Brac, Don Foster's Dive Cayman, Eden Rock Diving Center, Island Girl Charters, Jolly Roger, Ocean Frontiers, Pirates Point Resort, Red Sail Sports, Reef Divers I - Little Cayman, Reef Divers II - Cayman Brac, Resort Sports, Seaview Dive Center, Sunset Divers, Tortuga Divers, Treasure Island Divers.

Weddings & Honeymoons

Brac Reef Beach Resort, Beach Club Colony Resort, Beachcomber, Cobalt Coast Resort & Suites, Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort, Grand Old House, Holiday Inn Resort, Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, Indies Suites, Little Cayman Beach Resort, Plantana, Seaview Hotel & Dive Resort, The Anchorage, Treasure Island Resort, Westin Casuarina Hotel.

Golf

Sunrise Family Golf Centre

Nightclubs

Insomnia, Matrix, Next Level

Car & Jeep Rental

Andy's Rent A Car, Brac Rent-A-Car, Budget Rent A Car, Cayman Auto Rentals, CICO Avis Rent-A-Car, Coconut Car Rentals, Soto's Jeep and Car Rental, Sunshine Car Rentals/Cayman Convertible, Thrifty Car Rental.

Bicycle Rental

Soto's Jeep and Car Rental, Sunshine Car Rentals/Cayman Convertible.

Spas & Salons

Brac Reef Beach Resort, Eclipse Hair Design & Day Spa, Gary Callan International, Little Cayman Beach Resort, Spa Esprit.

Retailers

Bob Soto's Reef Divers, Bob Soto's Reef Divers Signature Store, Captain Marvin's Watersports, DiveTech, Eden Rock Diving Center, Beach Club Colony Resort (Hotel Gift Shop), Spanish Bay Reef Resort (Hotel Gift Shop), Mermaid's Gift Shop, Polly's Landing, Reef Divers I - Little Cayman, Reef Divers II - Cayman Brac, Seaview Dive Center, Treasure Island Divers.

Kids

Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, Resort Sports.



Art and Artists, Underwater, Part 2

The French Connection

WHEN ANDRE LABAN WAS 24 YEARS old, a friend told him "Jacques Cousteau is looking for an engineer."

Laban was not an engineer; he was a recently graduated chemist. But, with a shrug and the French version of "close enough," he applied. And in November of 1952, he became one of the "Men of Calypso." In the next 50 years, Andre Laban and the other men of Calypso were to become nearly as famous as Cousteau himself. Laban's first project with Cousteau was as a technician during the filming of the classic *Monde du Silence* (Silent World). He became an expert diver and by 1960, the pilot of the newly launched mini submersible *Soucoupe*—the diving saucer.

In October of 1965, Laban spent three weeks living in a habitat on the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, at a depth of 100 meters. During his long decompression, he was struck by the incredible blue of the sea around him—a sort of an underwater epiphany! He was already an accomplished painter, but, for the first time, he felt a compulsion to capture the essence of the sea around him and bring it to others. Andre Laban did his first underwater painting nearly 40 years ago, and the rest is history.

Laban's incredible life is well chronicled in an autobiography called *La Passion du Bleu*, published in France in 1995. Anton Lacroix, one of Canada's top young commercial divers, told me that he found Laban's book fascinating "because, you see, he was living a daily life of technology and great adventure, mixed together. Yet, he felt the need and had the ability to produce incredible art, but done by means of technology... and

subject (a well-known Jazz musician) on the back of the canvas and the wooden sides of the frame. The still-soft paint smeared as he grasped it after the dive and turned it repeatedly

in the surface sun to better see how Andre had captured him. Andre was annoyed at the time, but now agrees that the "disfigurement" adds a nice touch.

La Belle, France, seems to have more than its fair share of gifted artists who are dedicated to the undersea world. I asked Jean-Michel Cousteau about this and he said, "It is in the French nature. You know that France has produced an abundance of classical artists, but remember also, that France was, and is, the breeding ground for the non-traditional, the 'new art.' Artists come to this 'boiling pot' from everywhere, to rub elbows with other creative people, to inspire and to be inspired. You are surprised at the number of skilled, passionate, French undersea artists—I would be surprised if it were otherwise." I nodded, and he continued "and of them all, my old friend Andre has a very special place!"

Continuing in the vein of French artists, Pascal Lecocq should not be overlooked. He is one of those unusual characters who has known from childhood exactly what he wishes to do, and looking neither left nor right, proceeds to do it. He was born in Seine et Marne, France, in 1958, attended L'ecole Comairas, and began exhibiting in France and abroad by 1977, when he was only 19 years old. By his 30th birthday he was a well-known artist with work in many national and internation-

Laban is the only painter I know who actually paints *underwater*. Yes, that's right—weighted easel on the bottom and fish nibbling the paint right off his palette!

on top of this, you can see through his sly cartoons and his writing, a quiet laugh at it all." I agree.

Laban is the only painter I know who actually paints *underwater*. Yes, that's right—weighted easel on the bottom and fish nibbling the paint right off his palette! Andre "paints" with a palette knife—building layer upon layer. His textured works depict seascapes almost exclusively, in a manner that results in impressions of what the diver sees—the clarity of the foreground, the limited visibility, the sense of something more, out there, just beyond the range of visibility.

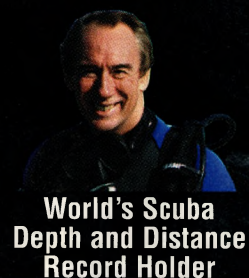
I own a very special painting by Andre Laban, one of the few that isn't a seascape. The painting reproduced here is called "The Jazz Player." It has the finger marks of the

"The Jazz Player"
by Andre Laban





Delivers the Experience of Diving



Located on Ambergris Caye, Belize at the Sunbreeze Hotel, our fleet of six 26-42 foot boats stands ready to service your dive vacation. Local Diving & Snorkeling • Turneffe Atoll Blue Hole • PADI resort, referral, scuba instructions & Open water certifications.

8 day, 7 night packages starting at \$599.00
(800) 641-2994 • belize@nealwatson.com
www.nealwatson.com/belize.html



Photo Tours Divers is a full service dive shop specializing in quality dive experiences in an unhurried, uncrowded style either by boat or from shore. We offer various hotel/diving packages. 8 day, 7night starting at \$759.00.

Email Bonaire@nealwatson.com
www.nealwatson.com/bonaire.html



St. Lucia's premier dive operation located at the exclusive TiKaye Village offers easy diving on lushly covered walls of colorful sponges and corals. 8 day, 7 night packages start at \$880.00.

Email: stlucia@nealwatson.com
www.nealwatson.com/stlucia.html



Walker's Cay-The World's Hottest Shark Dive!

Imagine more than 100 black tip, Caribbean reef, hammerhead, and lemon sharks swirling before you as they feed on the famous Chumsicle. Dive in a protected marine park a mere 10 minute boat ride from the dive center. Walker's Cay, a private island resort, home of ESPN's Walker's Cay Chronicles.

Stay four or more nights and get your open water qualifying dives, or an upgrade to Advanced Open Water Diver, absolutely free!

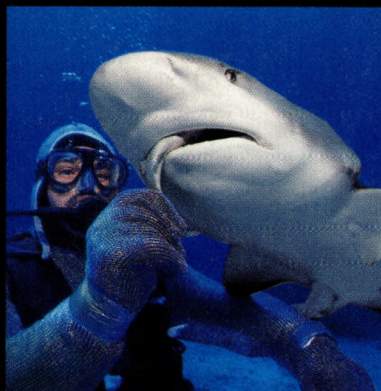
3 Days/2 Nights
\$396 pp double occupancy

- Deluxe Air-conditioned Room
- Room Taxes & Gratuities
- 3 Dives Daily
- Complimentary Arrival and Departure
- Dives pending Flight Schedules and Safety
- Breakfast/Dinner Daily

Toll Free US
800-513-5257
In Ft. Lauderdale 954-462-3400



e-mail: walkers@nealwatson.com
internet: <http://www.nealwatson.com/walkers.html>



Xanadu Undersea Adventures, Freeport Bahamas - Offers up to four dives daily including night dives, wrecks, hand feeding sharks, walls, instruction and rental. Enjoy our private beach, pool & tennis. We're minutes from golf, casino & shopping. 3 day, 2 night packages starting at 165.00 pp.

www.nealwatson.com/xanadu.html
Email: xanadu@nealwatson.com



Nassau's only dedicated dive hotel. Unlimited tanks for shore dives up to four dives a day. Shark Dives! All inclusive room, meals, local beer & rum punch. Activities for non-divers NAUI/Universal Referral Facility. Digital Underwater Photography Center. 3 day, 2 night all inclusive dive packages starting at \$300.00. (800) 327-8150

Landshark@nealwatson.com
www.nealwatson.com/nassau.html

al collections, and his own workshop in Normandy. In 1985, Pascal received a Doctorate in the faculty of Arts from the University of Paris. His work has been compared to Dali and other surrealists, but with a delicate color sense favoring the Dutch painter Vermeer. Very academic, very classical. But Pascal is neither academic, nor classical. He shares the same sort of off-center, surreal sense of humor that distinguishes Laban. Perhaps it is this sense of the ridiculous, this gentle self-mocking, that allows them to regard themselves, and us, with a raised eyebrow and an amused smile—and we see it in their art.

Lecocq's work, in particular, seems at first glance to be nothing if not bizarre. A powerful Orca swims in a cloud-filled sky above a huge land canyon. A wetsuit clad matador executes a cape-pass at a Great White Shark. And, in a long vertical print, a breath-hold diver passes from the light blue of a summer sky into the dark beckoning deep. Odd. More than a bit disturbing, but incredibly beautiful. Much has been written about Pascal's work, but I believe that the most amazing thing about each of his paintings is that they do work. A little less, and they would be disjointed pieces; a little more,

and they would be totally over the top. Done just right, and they are the popular work of this rising French artist.

Pascal has gone to considerable trouble to make his work widely available in limited edition prints, and occasionally, for the lucky buyer, a small original piece done for no other reason than to work again in a medium or style learned in his training. I have a number of his signed, numbered, limited edition prints that I like, but my favorite Lecocq work is a little pen and ink hardhat diver trudging

along the sea floor. My hardhat diver has the quality of an etching or engraving, but I think the reason that I like it so much is because there is no other like it; it is mine.

And so it is with art and artists. At the same time, they belong to all of us, to each of us, and to themselves—to their own passion to create. France seems to have an abundance of such artists, and they, like their colleagues around the world, are true national treasures. Their work captures a feeling, a time, a nuance, in a way no mechanical recording technique can. It carries that succinct imprint—a fraction of the soul of the artists who give them to us.

Catch Pascal in 2003 at the Fort Lauderdale, FL, art fair Jan. 5 to 6; in Paris at the Salon de la Plongee Jan. 31 to Feb. 2; at Beneath the Sea, New York, March 28 to 30; or in Boulogne, France, at the Festival des Images de Mer, April 17 to 21. For further information, have a look at Monsieur Lecocq's website at www.pascal-lecocq.com.

Andre Laban exhibits almost continuously in France. His original work is highly sought and he has also done some prints from his palette-knife undersea work. You can contact

Andre Laban at Le Sous-Marin Bleu, 82140 St. Atonin Noble Val, Tarn-et-Gar, France, or fax: 05-63-30-66-80. Andre's book *La Passion du Bleu* is available from Edisud, La Calade, 13090 Aix-en-Provence, France (ISBN 2-85744-829-5), published in 1995. If you contact Andre Laban or Pascal Lecocq, please tell them I sent you. You probably won't get a discount, but you may get a charming smile.

Next time, Part 3—more of the same, only quite different. 🐟



"One hundred thousand places under the sea," by Pascal Lecocq

NEWTFRONTIERS

NEAL WATSON'S UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

With more than 30 years experience of diving and operating successful dive resorts, Neal Watson is the natural choice for the ultimate dive experience. He has spent his life discovering the best diving the Caribbean has to offer. Choose from any of his Undersea Adventure affiliate resorts and you will experience the ultimate these destinations have to offer: The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Dominican Republic, Bonaire, Belize, Mexico and beyond, all at a price that will make you say....

*Let the
Adventure
Begin...*

**Experience the best in
diving right now.
Call immediately to
book your dive vacation.**

**In the US and Canada
Call Toll Free at
1-800-327-8150
(954) 462-3400 or
(954) 462-4100 FAX**

**PO BOX 21766,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335-1766**

**E-mail us: info@nealwatson.com
Get information 24 hours a day at**

www.nealwatson.com

Freeze Your Arse Off and Have Fun Doing It!

BEING A BIG FAN OF WARM-water diving, all underwater activities on the Northern East Coast seem insane, so "fun" wouldn't usually be a description I'd place on the Annual Frozen Fin Dive the SECONN dive club seems very enthusiastic about.

But, enthusiasm is contagious and since the event is in its 39th year, it must be fun. SECONN, established in 1963, is serious about diving. Their website boasts events, links, photos, organized dive trips and even a lost & found. Now, those are the kind of honest people I'd like to hang out with. Well, maybe for their topside activities.

For more information on SECONN and the 39th Frozen Fin Dive, visit www.seconndivers.org.

A New Website for HammerHeads

THE HAMMERHEADS HEADQUARTERS recently unveiled a brand new website for its membership. Chat rooms and message boards allow Head Hammers to keep in touch and exchange ideas for managing individual chapters.

Most important, the general membership can contact members in any part of the world, making it easy to plan diving trips. In addition, a new feature, the Calendar of Events, is updated with any HammerHeads activities. Individual chapters can access the calendar and add their local events and group trips.

To learn more about the HammerHeads or to join a chapter, email cfuller@dema.org. Check out their new website at www.hammerheads.com.

Two Countries With One Mission: To Dive

DURING TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S NICE to see two countries come together on something. The American Brazilian Dive Club is an inspiration for all divers to forge partnerships. The newly formed dive club boasts 247 members after seven years of operation. Its goal is to introduce Americans to diving in Brazil and vice versa. Written mostly in Portuguese, the website may be difficult for most Americans to read, but the message is clear: Diving is an international sport. So why not make it an international communication tool?

To broaden your horizons, visit the American Brazilian Dive Club, at www.cris.com/~apavan/dive.htm.

Happy 40th!

WE WANTED TO WISH HHUC (HART House Underwater Club) a happy 40th anniversary. "A celebration of 40 years of underwater education, enjoyment and exploration" (The three big "Es") will be had by members at two big events in November.

Want to join the party? Visit www.hhuc.ca for more information. 🐡

Send your club news to ryan.allen@skindivermag.com.

Sand Dollar

Bonaire's Family-Friendly Condominium Resort



Brand New Facilities at Sand Dollar!

Sand Dollar announces the completion of a new pier and guest gear storage facility! The new facilities are located at the south-end of the property, offering easy drive-up and boat access. Bari reef, directly in front of the resort, is rated #1 in species diversity in the Caribbean. **Bonaire Dive and Adventure** will operate facilities headed up by Andre Nahr, former managing director of Sand Dollar Dive & Photo. Many familiar faces from the past promise excellent service and great diving!

PACKAGES STARTING AT \$526



- Includes 7 night's accommodations in our fully equipped waterfront condominiums. (Prices are per person, based on 4 or 6 persons in 2 or 3 bedroom condos. Call for studio or 1 bedroom prices.)
- 6 days of unlimited shore diving, 6 boat dives, all service charges and taxes.
- Up to 2 children (under the age of 12) can stay FREE in any one unit!

Visit Us On The Web: www.sanddollarbonaire.info

Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, Bonaire, N.A.

U.S. Reservations: 1-800-288-4773. Fax: 407-774-9322
e-mail: usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.info

Bonaire: (599) 717-8738. Fax (599) 717-8760 • e-mail: info@sanddollarbonaire.info

Scuba Adventures
SCUBA ADVENTURES



ARUBA

Where happiness lives.™

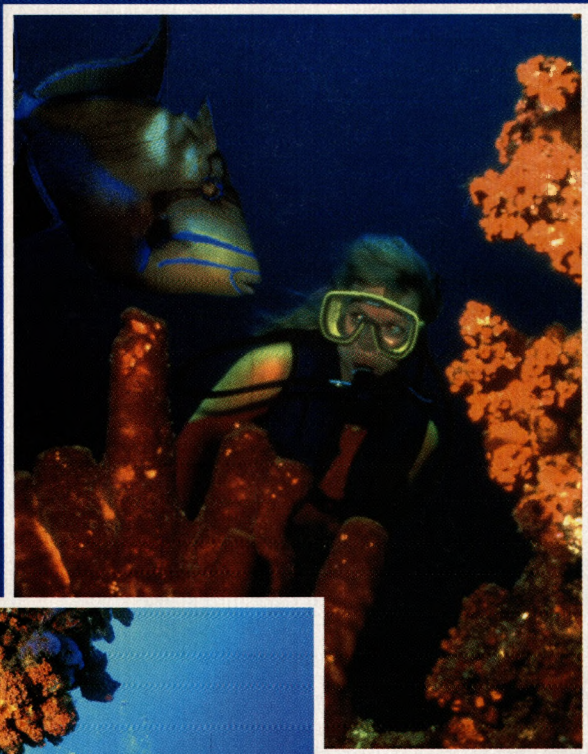
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Experience Aruba



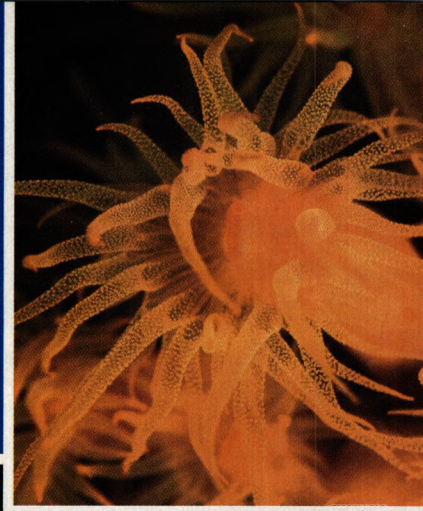
Dive or snorkel the tranquil waters of Aruba's leeward side, and discover a different world. Angelfish, parrotfish and snapper abound against the background of varying textures and shapes of the coral reef. Divers can choose to visit this world a number of ways.

Aruba is one of the Caribbean's most diverse dive locations. Already well known as a prime spot for wreck diving, the island also offers a number of challenging drift dives, accessible both from shore and boat. Night diving is also a special adventure, and is not limited to the experienced diver.



Resort courses (including equipment) are available to individuals 12 years and older. Divers with an Open Water certificate can polish their skill or work toward a higher certificate through one of Aruba's internationally-licensed dive centers. But Aruba's underwater world is not limited to divers; snorkelers can also appreciate its beauty on the southwest coast where the white sandy beach slopes gently toward the sea.

A trip below Aruba's crystal-clear, azure blue water line is an opportunity to discover the diversity of Aruba's underwater world. Schools of yellowtail snapper against mountainous star coral is the sight most often seen but certainly not the only one. Rare frogfish, sea turtles and stingrays also inhabit this world, near the reefs and along the island's 17 miles of shoreline. How you choose to visit these sites is completely up to you—of Aruba's two dozen prime diving sites many are accessible right from the shore including wreck dives and deep dives up to 120 feet. Drift diving is also another popular feature in Aruba, allowing divers to ride the current past a kaleidoscope of colors created by tropical fish of all shapes against different coral formations.



The diversity and beauty of Aruba's marine ecosystem is always available for viewing by divers as well as snorkelers. Though there are slight differences as a result of seasonal changes, Aruba maintains a warm underwater environment in the high 70 degrees F to low 80 degrees F and visibility between 60 and 100 feet, allowing even snorkelers to visit and enjoy wrecks such as Antilla, a 60-foot dive. Couples of which only one is certified to dive can therefore still travel together to the same sites and enjoy similar adventures.

DIVING AND SNORKELING

Aruba Marine Services N.V. (297) 839190
Aruba Pro Dive(297) 825520
S.E.A. Fly and Dive(297) 878759
De Palm Tours(297) 824545
Native Divers(297) 864763

Pelican Watersports(297) 872302
Red Sail Sports(297) 861603
Scuba Plus(297) 844292
Unique Sports of Aruba ..(297) 860096
Dive Aruba(297) 825216

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1-800-TO-ARUBA, EXT. 40,
 WEB SITE: WWW.ARUBA.COM E-MAIL INFO@ARUBA.COM



Where happiness lives.™

Pelican Adventures

- Best wreck dives, night dives, one or two tank dives
- Modern dive centers with custom-built boats and top quality equipment.
- Variety of packages, from 6 dives for \$160 to 6 days of unlimited diving for \$325
- Full service and fun marina pier, including great bar/restaurant on the water.



Gold Palm Resort
 5 Star
 PADI Dive Center

For information call: **011 (297) 872302**
 Fax: 011 (297) 872315

E-mail: pelican-aruba@setamet.aw
 Web: www.pelican-aruba.com



RENAISSANCE
 ARUBA BEACH RESORT & CASINO
 ORANJESTAD, ARUBA

- A private 40-acre island with beaches and secluded coves, hammocks for relaxing in the shade, tropical wildlife and even a beachside bar and grill
- 15 international restaurants and cafes
- World-class marina
- 24-hour entertainment and 2 casinos

For complete
 Renaissance
 Dive Packages
 see your
 travel agent
 or call
 Red Sail Sports
 toll-free
877-462-3567

red sail sports

- PADI Gold Palm Instructor Development Center
- Variety of hotel/dive packages—transfers included!
- \$150 for 5 tanks/\$300 for 7 days unlimited diving
- One and two-tank dives, night & wreck dives, NITROX!
- Boat, kayak and shore diving from Renaissance Island



www.redsail.com • info@redsail.com
 toll-free **877-462-3567**



Caradonna
 Caribbean Tours Inc.

www.caradonna.com
 sales@caradonna.com

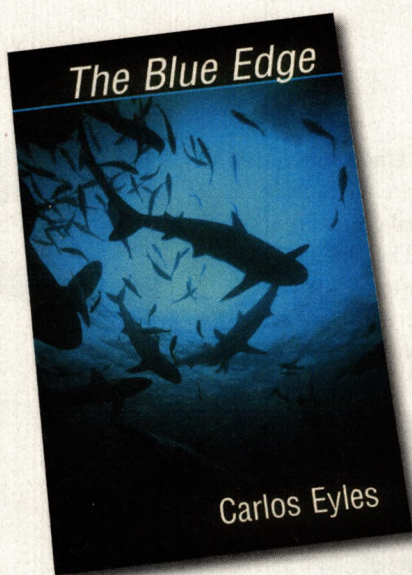
- Great 8 day/7 night custom dive packages from \$565
- Budget to luxury accommodations available
- Lowest airfares from your home city

**Special
 Group Rates**

800-328-2288

Welcome to the Diver's Library,
where each month we bring you
the latest in diving media.

THE BLUE EDGE—CARLOS EYLES' eighth book—is a dramatic, day-by-day account of two expeditions (over a total of 65 days) to magical San Benedicto Island, off the tip of Baja California. This incredible ocean oasis is the vortex of heart-pounding encounters with masses of schooling Hammerheads, Galapagos Sharks, Manta Rays, whales and more. It is also one of the last such oases remaining in this part of the world.



First exploring the Sea of Cortez more than 30 years ago, Eyles draws upon decades of Baja experience to examine the decline of these waters. This perspective helps him convey the importance of preserving the waters of San Benedicto, which is one of the last surviving gathering places for major marine animals in the region.

Readers can reminisce with Eyles as he conjures up memories of other seas and other journeys—

For information on how to submit a product for review in Diver's Library, contact Ryan Allen at ryan.allen@skindivermag.com.

journeys through which the ocean transformed him from spearfisherman into photographer and preservationist. Sixteen black-and-white photos illustrate this change, with the early years made up of "hero" shots with trophy fish, and the later years represented by awe-inspiring photos of living animals.

Accompanying Eyles and his

The Blue Edge
by Carlos Eyles
Aqua Quest Publications
(516) 759-0476
www.aquaquest.com

companions on exquisite breath-hold dives with these legendary creatures, gives insight into the daily joys, frustrations and downright awe that such a journey into nature can bring. And with it, lessons Eyles learned about the ways of the ocean and its inhabitants. 🐟

DIVER'S LIBRARY
BY JIM WALKER

VELOCITY™

fins

VENTED for
Speed,
Control
and
Efficiency

Open-heel
and
full-foot
styles
available

AERIS

www.diveaeris.com

BY JIM WALKER



Zeagle Escape BC

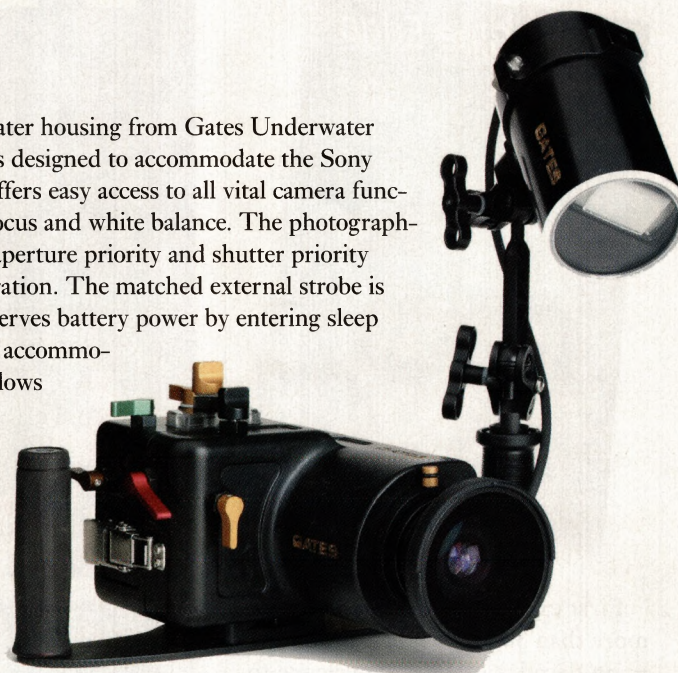
Ban the bulk and dive lighter, with Zeagle's Escape BC. The Escape is low profile and light enough to pack for any tropical vacation, yet it offers up to 35 pounds of positive buoyancy, which is even enough for drysuit diving. (An optional bladder with only 24 pounds of lift is available.) Made of tough, 430 denier Para Pac nylon, the BC bladder is further slimmed by an elastic retractor. The BC can hold up to 30 pounds of weight in the ripcord quick release system and 20 pounds in the rear-mount pockets. (An optional slide-out weight system is available). The Escape incorporates two flap pockets and two hidden utility pockets, plus four Delrin D-rings for attaching accessories. There is a padded lumbar support, and the compact shoulder and chest straps provide an open area for easy access to drysuit valves. Five trim colors and multiple vest and shoulder strap sizes are offered as well. With Zeagle's Personal Fit System, your dealer can customize the Escape for your exact frame fit. 🐟

Zeagle: (813) 782-5568, www.zeagle.com

Gates F707 Digital Still Camera Housing

Go deep and digital with the F707 underwater housing from Gates Underwater Products. As the name implies, this housing is designed to accommodate the Sony F707, five megapixel, digital still camera. It offers easy access to all vital camera functions, including auto exposure lock, manual focus and white balance. The photographer has complete exposure control in manual, aperture priority and shutter priority modes. The housing also allows full auto operation. The matched external strobe is controlled by the camera, and the strobe conserves battery power by entering sleep mode when not in use. The housing can even accommodate the optional Multi Port system, which allows easy lens changes underwater so that the photographer can adapt to varied photo opportunities. 🐟

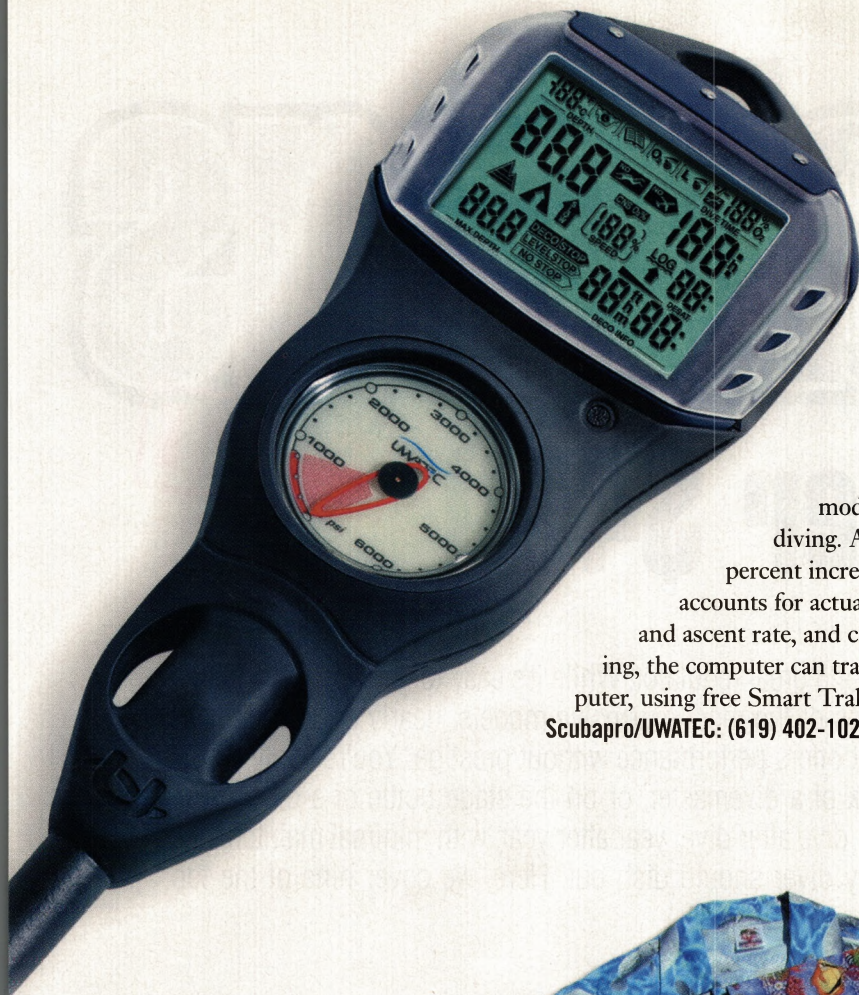
Gates Underwater Products: (800) 875-1052, www.gateshousings.com



DUI Women's Drysuit

"I am Woman, and I am comfortable." Ladies can stay dry and stylish with DUI's TLSSE—a high-quality, competitively priced drysuit designed specifically for women. Available in stock sizes or custom, the suit material is a rugged trilaminate of nylon and butyl rubber that allows complete freedom of movement. The suit features a shoulder-entry zipper and adjustable elastic waist cord. The air inlet swivels and the low-profile, adjustable exhaust valve operates automatically and manually. Latex wrist and neck seals keep water out, and a double layer of material protects the knees. Rugged Rock Boots (included) are worn over the suit's feet and inside the diver's fins. The TLSSE is available in purple/black, and small, medium, medium large, large and extra large. 🐟

DUI: (800) 325-8439, www.dui-online.com



UWATEC Smart Pro Console

This ergonomically-shaped console combines the Smart Pro dive computer and a tank pressure gauge in one handy information center. The analog tank pressure gauge has easy-to-read measurements in bars (400) or psi (6,000). The Smart Pro computer has a replaceable, flip-up screen protector and illuminated display with large text, icons and numbers (shown here in start-up mode). The computer is compatible with air or nitrox diving. And, when set for nitrox, it can be adjusted in one percent increments of oxygen concentration. The Smart Pro accounts for actual dive parameters, including water temperature and ascent rate, and can be set to six different levels of safety. After diving, the computer can transmit dive profile information to a personal computer, using free Smart Trak software. 🐟

Scubapro/UWATEC: (619) 402-1023, www.scubapro.com

Tropical Connection Shirts & Candles

Dress right or see the light with these offerings from Tropical Connection. Button-up, short sleeve shirts are American-made and 100 percent cotton for durability, cool wear and easy care. These colorful, aquatic-themed garments are available in seven sizes and six patterns, including a variety of tropical fish and coral, Manatees or dolphins. Candles are formed in glass bowls and include transparent candle-gel that looks like water. Five-inch scuba diver candles include sand, shells, fake gold coins and aquatic creatures. Other five-inch candles feature dolphins or Manatees. Two-inch beach scene candles have everything but the diver or animal, and two-inch special event candles can be created with personalized commemorations for weddings, etc. 🐟

Tropical Connection: (708) 453-3007,
www.tropical-connection.com



greatregs

under \$400

Part I

by Karl Shreeves

You don't have to pay top dollar for a great regulator. While it's easy to get distracted by the high-performance bells and whistles of the most expensive models, nearly every manufacturer makes a "SUV" reg—one that offers performance without prestige. You're likely to see these workhorse regs atop the tank of a divemaster, or on the stage bottle of a cave diver. These are regulators that deliver air dive after dive, year after year, with minimal maintenance and enduring more abuse than any diver should dish out. Here, we cover nine of the top brands. Tune in next issue for more.

AQUA LUNG TITAN LX

The Titan LX is a newcomer from the Aqua Lung line, taking the proven Titan first stage and pairing it with a new compact and lightweight LX second stage. This combination results in a regulator that epitomizes the SUV regulator concept.

The Titan LX stands out in this category with its compact balanced diaphragm mechanism. Its first stage offers performance with minimal maintenance, because the moving parts stay dry and are relatively easy to service. The LX second stage provides performance while keeping the weight down, which makes this a good choice for the traveling diver, as well as a trusty back up to that thoroughbred you already have in the stable.

Aqua Lung: (760) 597-5000; www.AquaLung.com

MSRP: \$365 WEIGHT: 2.5 lbs HP PORTS: 1 LP PORTS: 4 NITROX: YES, to 40%





APEKS AT20

Distributed in the USA by Sea Quest, the Apeks AT20 combines an easy-breathing, balanced diaphragm first stage, with a high-strength plastic second stage that weighs in at 25 percent less than its predecessor. The second stage incorporates a pneumatically balanced valve for easy-breathing, and a rotating lever adjusts a venturi assist for fine tuning airflow as depth or work load increases. Low profile exhaust ports reduce exhalation resistance, while still offering a reasonable amount of bubble deflection. The easy-riding "Comfo-bit" mouthpiece is standard.

Sea Quest: (760) 597-5000; www.Sea-Quest.com

MSRP: \$350 **WEIGHT:** 2.3 lbs **HP PORTS:** 1 **LP PORTS:** 4 **NITROX:** YES, to 40%

Atomic made dive industry history by introducing the first titanium regulators that, while bulletproof elite performers, are also a big ticket buy. The Z-1 is Atomic's answer for those looking for the performance at a great price. However, it definitely springs from the Atomic gene pool. The Z-1 features a brass/stainless steel balanced piston regulator for cost-effective performance. The metal parts in the second stage are brass and zirconium, but like its higher-line brethren, also titanium on the demand level orifice. Two features make the Z-1 unique among regulators in this price range. First, it has automatic flow control, which adjusts the Z-1's airflow as the depth changes for consistent, smooth delivery. Second, it has Atomic's seat saving orifice, which reduces the valve seat wear normally caused by the valve being shut, even during storage.

Atomic Aquatics: (714) 375-1433; www.AtomicAquatics.com

MSRP: \$379 **WEIGHT:** 2.4 lbs **HP PORTS:** 2 **LP PORTS:** 6 **NITROX:** YES, to 40%





MSRP: \$340 **WEIGHT:** 2.8 lbs
HP PORTS: 2 **LP PORTS:** 4
NITROX: YES, to 40%

GENESIS ATLAS GR440

The Genesis contributes to the SUV category with the Atlas GR440, offering performance and reliability in a unit that combines a lightweight ABS/polycarbonate second stage with its unique Dry Air Demand (D.A.D.) piston first stage. This system environmentally seals the first stage by maintaining an envelope of air around the working parts, thus denying direct water contact while transmitting the pressure to the piston. When you ascend, the first stage vents a small amount of expanding air from the envelope. The D.A.D. system gives the Atlas the low-wear characteristics of conventional environmental sealing, but without special silicone-filled chambers or similar designs.

Genesis Scuba: (949) 581-8069; www.GenesisScuba.com

OCEANIC GAMMA CDX5

Oceanic's Gamma CDX5 combines the Gamma 2 second stage with a balanced diaphragm CDX5 first stage. The Gamma CDX5 is a middle-of-the-line regulator that strikes a balance between cost and performance by combining an economical, lightweight ABS/polycarbonate plastic second stage with a high performance, compact and lightweight chrome-plated brass first stage. Like several models in this price range, the Gamma CDX5 features an adjustable venturi switch, which it couples with its computer-designed venturi flow vane to reduce breathing resistance. The Gamma CDX5 stands out as a good choice for those looking for the high-performance Oceanic's diaphragm first stages have become known for, but in a more lightweight, compact model.

Oceanic USA: (510) 562-0500; www.OceanicWorldWide.com

MSRP: \$399 **WEIGHT:** 2.6 lbs **HP PORTS:** 2 **LP PORTS:** 4 **NITROX:** YES, to 40%





MSRP: \$370 **WEIGHT:** 2.6 lbs
HP PORTS: 1 **LP PORTS:** 4
NITROX: YES, to 40%

SCUBAPRO MK16 R380

Scubapro's R380 second stage features the company's adjustable venturi system for minimal breathing resistance without uncontrollable freeflow, and has the unusual ability to be reconfigured so the low pressure hose enters the second stage from the left side instead of the conventional right. This makes it an ideal second stage/regulator for some tek diving configurations, in which a diver may want to route a hose in from the left.

The MK16 first stage is an environmentally sealed, balanced diaphragm that features two high flow, low pressure ports (for second stages) and two standard flow, low pressure ports (for accessories). The MK16 has an insulating system that helps avoid freezing, making this a good choice for cold water diving. The MK16 also utilizes the Piston Assist Seating System (PASS), which employs a poppet/piston device that pneumatically assists the diaphragm in opening and closing. This results in the MK16 being an extremely easy-breathing diaphragm first stage.

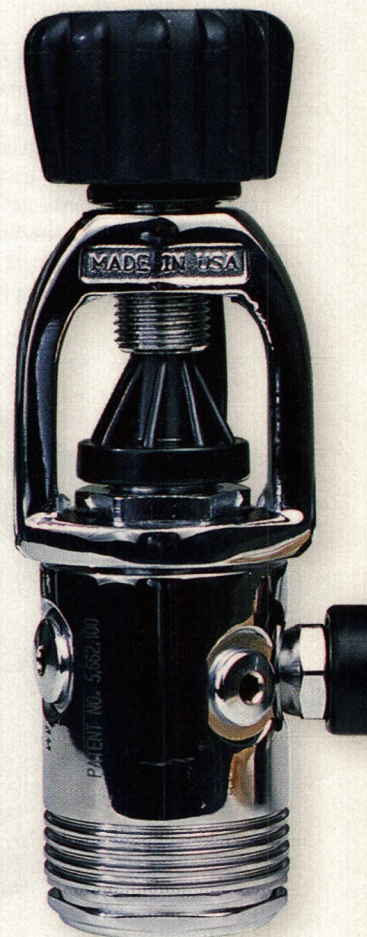
Scubapro: (619) 402-1023; www.Scubapro.com

SHERWOOD MAGNUM SRG5300

Sherwood practically invented the SUV regulator concept with its successful Brut and Magnum series regulators. The Magnum SRG5300 carries on Sherwood's tradition of highly reliable, good performance, moderate-price regulators by featuring one of the most compact second stages in this regulator class. It also has an especially well-designed exhaust deflector—great for photographers who want to keep bubbles out of their shots. The SRG5300 incorporates Sherwood's Dry Air Bleed system, which isolates the piston from water contact through a minute air stream that keeps it dry. This reduces wear and increases reliability by keeping the first stage free of contaminants from the water. The SRG5300 first stage also features Sherwood's moving orifice system, which adjusts the performance for easy, consistent breathing throughout the dive.

Sherwood Scuba: (949) 581-8069; www.SherwoodScuba.com

MSRP: \$315 **WEIGHT:** 2.5 lbs **HP PORTS:** 2 **LP PORTS:** 4 **NITROX:** NO





TUSA RS-230

The RS-230 joins the dependable airflow of the proven R-200 balanced diaphragm first stage with a multi-featured second stage. The result is one fully tricked-out SUV regulator. The compact first stage has one high pressure port and two low pressure ports on each side, allowing complete flexibility in hose positioning. The second stage has a lightweight, yet rugged housing made of nylon reinforced with glass fibers. Inside, the demand lever has a special surface finish to reduce friction. Airflow can be fine-tuned to changing needs via the external knob, which "clicks" through a number of settings. The exhaust valve is extra large and flexible, and has a special deflector for easy exhalation. The RS-230 also features a Unit Structure, in which the demand housing, lever and deflector form a single, removable unit. This significantly cuts down on any needed service time.

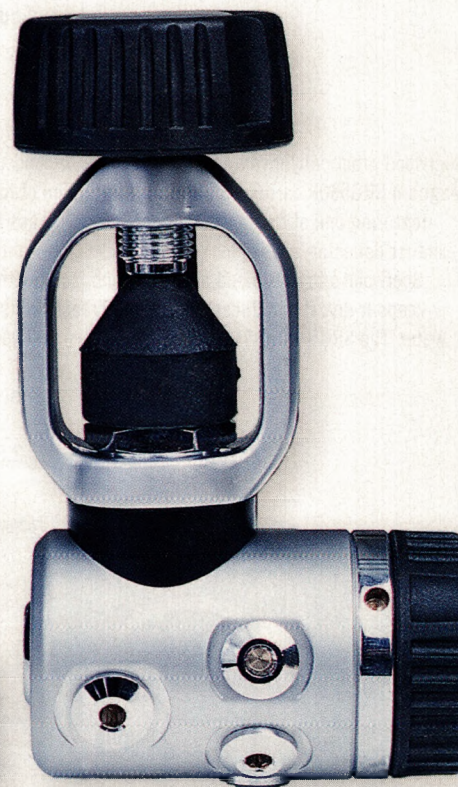
Tabata USA: (562) 498-3708; www.TUSA.com

MSRP: \$399	WEIGHT: 2.5 lbs
HP PORTS: 2	LP PORTS: 4
NITROX: YES, to 40%	

ZEAGLE DS-IV

The Zeagle DS-IV features the Zeagle ZX second stage and the DS-IV balanced diaphragm first stage. The second stage is a lightweight, robust high performer with features found most often on more expensive models, such as adjustable breathing resistance and adjustable venturi flow to prevent freeflow when the regulator's not in your mouth. The DS-IV, while a basic workhorse first stage, makes this regulator unique. The DS-IV comes environmentally-sealed as standard (with most regulators, environmental sealing is an option), making it ready for cold water/ice diving right out of the box. But, environmental sealing's not just for anti-icing, but also to protect the first stage moving parts from grit, sand and other foreign material. This feature makes the DS-IV especially well-suited to divers frequenting silty water, or those who, due to logistics, commonly experience delays in washing their gear post dive.

Zeagle: (813) 782-5568; www.Zeagle.com 🐟

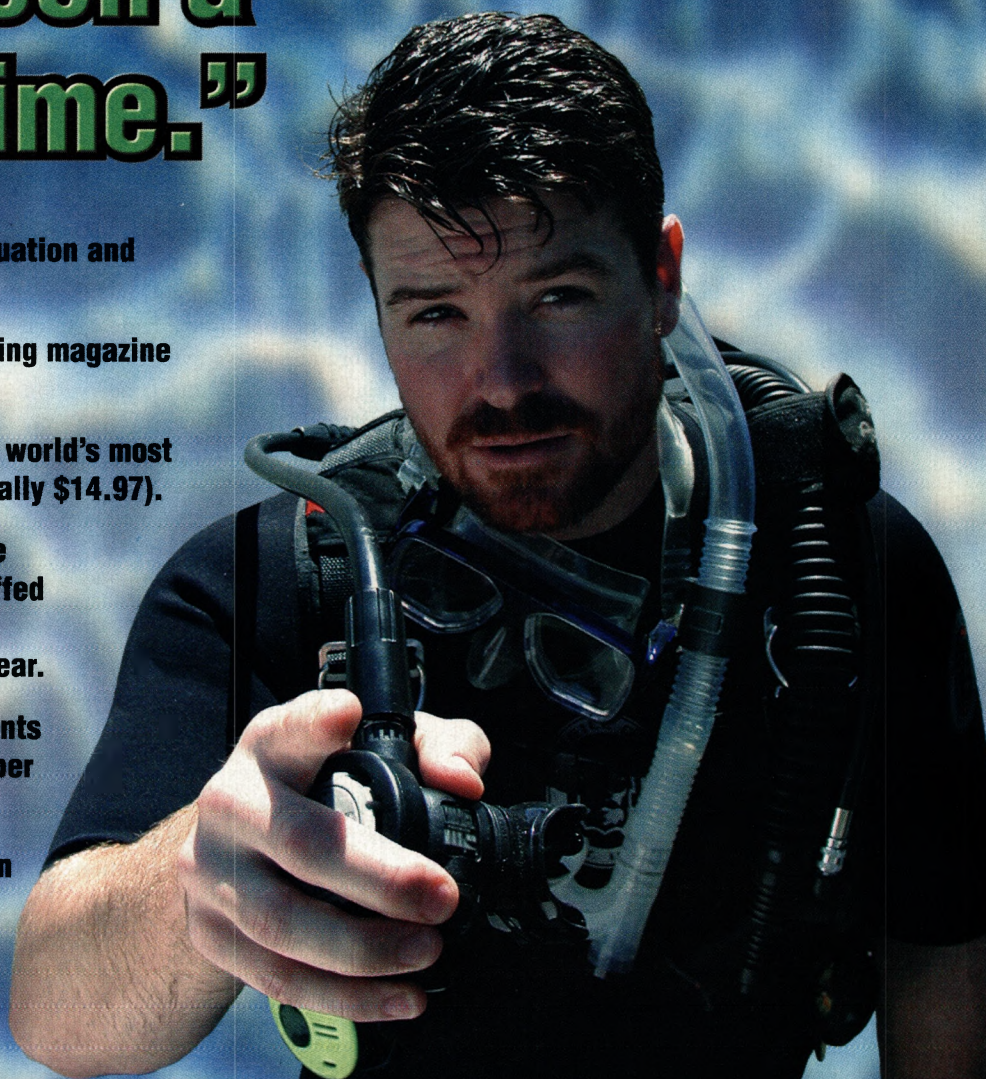


MSRP: \$399	WEIGHT: 2.8 lbs
HP PORTS: 2	LP PORTS: 5
NITROX: YES, to 40%	



"Join DAN. If you read *Skin Diver*, there has never been a better time."

- Worldwide emergency evacuation and medical assistance.
- *Alert Diver*, the award-winning magazine of Divers Alert Network.
- 12 issues of *Skin Diver*, the world's most read diving magazine (normally \$14.97).
- The only 24-hour, worldwide dive emergency hotline staffed full-time by dive medical professionals, 365 days a year.
- Discounts on *Skin Diver* Events dive packages, up to \$100 per event.
- Your Dive Safety Association for more than 20 years.



More Than Just Dive Accident Insurance



To join today, call 1-877-595-0625 or go online at www.DiversAlertNetwork.org

Divers Alert Network is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization associated with Duke University Health Systems.

PRIORITY CODE: 999SD2



**Texas
you gotta
love it**

TRAIN WITH US
1-800-321-0298



The Ocean Corporation
Commercial Diver Training
10840 Rockley Rd, Houston, TX 77099

**Financial Aid available
for those who qualify.**



EVEN TODAY, AFTER YEARS OF groundbreaking work by scientists, journalists, and environmentalists, many people still associate the word conservation with images of hippies, peace symbols and the '70s. But all it takes is one look around to realize that environmentalism was much more than a passing fad. The work of concerned people has led to changes in water standards, air quality, waste management and nature preservation that have had a huge impact on the way we live.

In fact, there are more conservation organizations today than ever. Some, like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), have grown in leaps and bounds and

thousands of endangered sea otters, bald eagles and peregrine falcons, all of which would be devastated by the testing.

Maybe it was our tendency to root for the underdog, but something about the small crew of protesters, protected only by a small fishing boat, sparked worldwide interest, and led eventually to the decision by the United States government to stop the tests in that area. Encouraged by that success, the group continued its awareness-raising campaigns for environmental protection, tackling such issues as toxic trade, ozone depletion, climate change, biodiversity and protecting endangered species.

Of course, not every environmental organization grows to a worldwide scale. But that's the beau-

MAKING CONSERVATION CHILD'S PLAY

have made a tremendous difference in saving threatened or endangered species from certain extinction. But how does a group like the WWF, the largest privately supported wildlife conservation organization in the world, go from a few people with a big idea to actually making a difference?

For the answer to that question, I am reminded of another active organization, the early whale protection group Greenpeace. Early in my career, I was fortunate enough to learn a little about putting the principles of conservation into practice from one of the co-founders of Greenpeace, Bob Hunter, who told me that the organization's efforts to stop commercial whaling happened almost accidentally. It all started in 1971, when a group of concerned people decided to protest a series of nuclear tests off the west coast of Alaska, near the tip of the Aleutian Islands. The area was home to

ty of giving something back. You don't have to be huge to make an impact. The principles that Greenpeace, the WWF, and similar groups stand by are very simple: a few people, if they believe strongly enough, can have an impact where it matters most—right in their own backyard. That's the whole point, and it's where you, as a parent, can flex your muscles as an environmental role model.

Encouraging kids to start a conservation club at home, at school or in their neighborhood is a great way to teach them the value of contributing to their commu-



PHOTO: GARY FIRSTENBERG

nity, not to mention the well-being of their planet. And many established organizations are more than willing to lend the kids the help they need. The local water district, for example, has plenty of information that kids can hand out at school to promote clean water, reduce dumping into sewage systems and more.

Each of us can find creative ways to protect the quality of life on our planet. It doesn't matter how young you are, or where you live, good ideas aren't restricted by age or geography. Teach your kids

Encouraging kids to start a conservation club at home, at school or in their neighborhood is a great way to teach them the value of contributing to their community, not to mention the well-being of their planet.

to think out of the box. Organizing a beach or lakeshore cleanup or a recycling drive are other good ways to get a fledgling conservation organization off the ground. Smaller kids could form an environmental club at home, working with parents to reduce household waste.

You can help them get their conservation club off to a good start by scheduling a meeting with the family first. Then they can outline who will be involved in their club, as well as their mission, theme and goals. Once their goals are established, they can measure them periodically. How many trash bags of litter have they collected? How much water have they saved by using low-flow shower heads or taking shorter showers? (This, incidentally, is also a good way to help them improve their math skills.) How many pounds of newspaper have they recycled? The opportunities to pitch in are endless.

Every conservation group started with a few people who had the courage to think that they could bring about positive change, and inspire others. Your kids can do the same. All they have to do is care. Just ask the leaders of groups like the Sierra Club, WWF or Greenpeace. A little concern can make all the difference in the world. 

Palau

The Diver's Paradise




Ocean Hunter/Fish 'n Fins

FISH 'n FINS THE PIONEER DIVE SHOP IN PALAU

- Personalized service • Cabin boats with toilet & shower
- Traditional outrigger canoe trips to the Rock Islands
- All PADI & IANTD courses/Nitrox available

E-mail: fishnfin@palaunet.com • WWW.FISHNFINS.COM
OCEAN HUNTER THE ONLY TRUE LIVEABOARD IN PALAU
 E-MAIL: Ocean.Hunter@palaunet.com • WWW.OCEANHUNTER.COM
 • Only 6 divers in 3 A/C cabins • Unlimited diving • Diving from main boat • Nitrox



Ph: (680) 488-2637
Fax: (680) 488-5418

Palau Pacific Resort/Splash

Enjoy the comfort and services of Palau's only World Class Resort. Experience the excitement of diving in one of the top seven underwater wonders of the world with Splash, an on-site dive center.

Phone: (680) 488-2600 • Fax: (680) 488-1606
 E-mail: ppr@palaunet.com • splash@palaunet.com
www.panpacific.com • www.splash-palau.com




Micronesia's Underwater High

Sam's Tours

Micronesia's top dive center with friendly staff, great guides, flexible service. On-site Photo & Imaging Shop, Rental, Retail, Bar & Restaurant too! Home to Planet Blue Sea Kayak Tours and Palau Technical Divers. For great affordable packages contact your travel professional or

E-mail: samstours@palaunet.com • Web: www.samstours.com





TRIP-N-TOUR

Dive/Travel Expert
of Palau & Micronesia

You are protected with TNT's
**BEST DEAL GUARANTEE &
DEPOSIT REFUND GUARANTEE**
1-800-348-0842
Call for our free 48-page brochure
www.trip-n-tour.com




Manta magic—Revillagigedos Islands.



PHOTO: ERIC HANAUER

I'll never forget my first ocean dive.

It was in the Bahamas. Having already made half a logbook's worth of deep dives in the Great Lakes, I almost yawned at the idea of diving to just 80 feet on a wreck that had been "made safe" for sport divers. But then, I giant-strided in, the bubbles cleared, and I grabbed the descent line and held on for dear life.

I just wasn't expecting the water to be so clear. To my eyes, accustomed to the murk of Lake Huron depths, being able to pick out sunlit details nearly a hundred feet away was just too much like being suspended—*a la* Wile E. Coyote before the plummet—in midair.

Eventually, I pried my fingers off the rope and went for a closer look. I saw all the colors of a Monet garden-scape and more fish than my slate could identify. I was the last one out, and when I got back on the boat, the divemaster complimented me on my buoyancy control and the way I stayed calm "with that great, big, bloody shark right above you for half the dive."

"Shark?" I asked. "What shark?"

Diving is an experience-oriented pastime. There was a time when most divers collected shells or corals or fish. Today, memories are the trophies from our trips.

...back on the boat, the divemaster complimented me on...the way I stayed calm "with that great, big, bloody shark right above you for half the dive."

"Shark?" I asked. "What shark?"

What makes a dive memorable? You tend to get the dive you're expecting. The professionals I've dived with—the dive journalists, photographers, travel writers and others you might expect to have a seen-it-all attitude—tend to anticipate every dive with the enthusiasm of a 5-year-old on Christmas morning: "Are we gonna see a Whale Shark? Cool!"

I once dived an inland lake in Michigan, at 2 o'clock on a February morning, with an air temperature of 12 degrees (yes, Fahrenheit), diving under as many inches of solid ice. The discomfort was there if you wanted to dwell on it, but I went diving just knowing that I was going to get something special. And as I came back to the hand-carved hole to surface, I got it—a starlit sky shimmering through the frost-touched open water, fringed by the dimly-silhouetted heads of my companions. I delayed going up for half a minute, just to be certain that I'd remember it.

I also get charged by diving that expands my boundaries, and that often happens when diving with someone new. Two weeks after a hurricane had brushed by Great Exuma, the seas still showed it. The usually topaz-clear water was tinged with a light, sandy scud that rendered the boat invisible just 50 feet above us. But my companion was marine biologist Ed Haxby, and he made up for the lack of long-range visibility by concentrating on things just an arm's-length away. We positioned

our hands in cleaning stations and watched as tiny shrimp ventured out to groom our cuticles. We watched blennies pop like cuckoos from the coral, and paused at a sand hollow to observe the mating dance of two invertebrates. Near the end of the dive, a Sergeant Major blushed blue as he chased wave after wave of spadefish away from his purple egg mass; and then, when they overwhelmed him, he turned and ate it himself! It was the most fascinating biology lesson imaginable, and we surfaced 70 minutes later, having covered no more than 25 feet of reef.

Of course, all other things being equal, where you dive has a lot to do with how much marquee value it will claim in your memories. It may be possible to have a bad, boring or forgettable dive on Bloody Bay Wall, but I wouldn't know—I've never had one. My memories of it are seahorses, frogfish and multi-hued walls that dropped away like the Grand Canyon.

What's the best? The dive of a lifetime? There are places, many represented in the following pages, that offer once-in-a-lifetime experiences. But, until someone has dived for a lifetime, I don't think he can say.

It's like the conversation I had on a recent trip to Cozumel. There were four of us, plus the divemaster and captain, and everyone was holding forth on the best diving they'd ever seen. One said it was the Red Sea. Another was sure it was Bali. A third was campaigning hard for the seamounts off Saba. I'd donned my gear and was perched on the gunwale, when one of the travelers turned to me.

"What about you?" she asked. "You haven't said a word. What's the best dive you've ever made?"

"I don't know," I shrugged as I backrolled. "Ask me in an hour."

Tom Morrissey is a longtime Skin Diver contributor whose first novel, Yucatan Deep, was recently published by Zondervan.

24 DIVES OF A LIFETIME

WHERE: Begins on the next page.

WHY: Destinations that guarantee an experience you'll never forget.

The Coolest Dive Ever: 28.8°F



It is the last real wilderness, a place pure and beautiful. It is the coldest, windiest spot on earth and can create strange emotions. Antarctica can thrill and infatuate, and—sometimes instantaneously—instill an equally overwhelming desire to get the hell out. Among those who know it, Antarctica is simply known as The Ice. And life thrives beneath The Ice. Science once deemed Antarctica's waters nearly devoid of life. Science has been forced to execute an about face, as it is impossible to ignore a sponge the size of a bear. Proving that nature has a sense of humor, Earth's emptiest land mass sits above a water wonderland.

Descend, if you will, into a world where the water can be so clear there is no sense of water at all—visibility is

measured, not in feet, but in football fields. It's a world where jellies the size of barrels drift-cum-fly past, and the sea floor is littered with sea stars, soft corals, sea spiders, octopus, nudibranchs, sea urchins, naked dragonfish, nemertean worms and giant isopods performing a ballet in graceful, and sometimes horrid (anemones slowly devouring a jellyfish), slow motion. It's a world where fish thrive as fish and not as Popsicles, utilizing glycoprotein antifreeze compounds that lower the freezing point of their body fluids; where penguins swim like dark darts, trailing silver-bubble contrails. Alice in Wonderland, Ken Kesey, there is no stranger trip. A crazy, but very quiet dance hall. The Moulin Bleu.

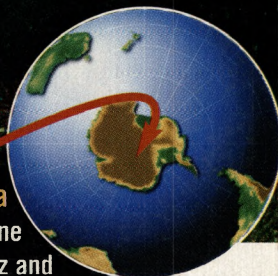
Antarctica's climate makes for interesting divergences



from diving's norms. The thick sea ice and its covering of snow keep light levels low, even in summer's 24 hours of light. Thus, animals normally seen only in deep water—certain jellyfish, for example—rise up into diving depths. The water's shocking clarity—1,000-foot visibility—is commonly present when Antarctica's summer diving season begins in September. After six months of darkness, the water is virtually empty of visibility-scuffing plankton. The staggering cold and paucity of predators ensure many watery denizens a long life, not to mention bizarre gigantism. Sea stars can live 20 years. In warm waters of the globe, sea spiders are typically smaller than a fingernail. Antarctic sea spiders grow to the size of a human hand. Rod Serling would have had a field day here.

There is no danger of Club Med gaining a foothold in this place. With

its freezing point lowered by salt, the water gets as cold as it can on this planet: 28.8°F in the Ross Sea of deep Antarctica, and an appreciable degree warmer off the Antarctic Peninsula to the north, where most diving takes place. Regulators can freeze up if you breathe too fast or work too hard. Drysuits stave off the wet, but not the cold; hands and feet can still throb painfully. Discomfort, yes. But discomfort suddenly, if not completely, erased by the haunting trills of Weddell Seals sounding off a roiling thundercloud-ceiling of electric-blue ice.—KEN MCALPINE



WHERE: Antarctica
WHY: Mutant marine life, 1,000-foot viz and the world's most spectacular ice sculpture.

The Great White Hype Is True

The Great White Shark has always been one of diving's holy grail experiences, and South Africa is the place. No question, the area within 100 miles of Cape Town has the largest population of



WHERE: Dyer Island, South Africa

WHY: To rub elbows with *the* apex predator.

HOW: www.goafrica.about.com



Simons town in False Bay. It is in these areas that you are 99 percent ensured to see Great White Sharks. The only caveat is weather. The weather around the Cape of Good Hope is highly variable. They don't call this area the "cape of storms" for nothing! Such is the reality of shark diving in South Africa.

Most days, getting out is no problem. Every so often, however, a Cape storm rolls in that can

Great White Sharks of any place on earth. White Shark central is Gansbaai, 100 miles north of Cape Town, and

have you shore bound for a day or so. Underwater visibility is also variable, from six feet to 40 feet or more on a good day—15 feet is the norm. The shark season runs from May to September, the winter months in South Africa.

In Gansbaai, all shark diving is shore based. Every morning the boats leave a somewhat makeshift harbor and commonly run through heavy surf to Dyer Island, five miles offshore. Once in the water, and after the first shock of the 58°F water wears off, with luck you will view a Great White at close quarters. It is not uncommon to have as many as three sharks around the cages at any one time, averaging 14 feet in length. And the unexpected is to be expected. I once saw a 40-foot-long Southern Right Whale swim right up and look into the cage of a nearby boat and inspect the occupants.—JAMES D. WATT

Paradise With a Perfect Reef

Located off the eastern coast of Malaysian Borneo, Sipadan is a picture-postcard version of a diver's imagination run wild: A small, circular islet rimmed with powdery white sand and crowned by soaring jungle trees. It rises up from the depths of a warm, calm expanse of the Sulawesi Sea—a fringing reef creating turquoise shallows, while a dramatic wall brings deep, cobalt ocean to within a few yards of the beach on one side. It's an island you can walk around in 15 minutes.

Diving is off the beach or via a boat ride so short you can't say "Will-we-see-a...?" before the engine stops. At Barracuda Point,

58 www.skin-diver.com

WHERE: Sipadan Island, Malaysian Borneo

WHY: A plunging wall just fin kicks from the beach with the marine life of the world's most eco-diverse seas.

HOW: www.visitmalaysia.com



time, you can be nearly run down by a school of a couple hundred gigantic Bumphead Parrotfish feeding along the reef. At Hanging Gardens, huge gorgonians and soft corals sway in the current with Longnose Hawkfish. And turtles seem to be everywhere. For macro-buffs, there are Leaf Scorpionfish. Or, take a day trip to the island of Mabul, just a few miles

away, and see Stargazers, Mandarinfish, Ornate Ghost Pipefish and Flamboyant Cuttlefish.

Of course, the food and the exchange rate aren't bad either.—AL HORNSBY

PHOTOS: JAMES D. WATT, (OPPOSITE PAGE) NORBERT WU

The name Palau drips off the tongues of divers as they whisper it in hushed, but excited tones. Its reputation for frenetic reefs is well known, and fueled by the simple fact that each time a diver goes there, he finds the rumor is true in every detail—especially as it relates to Blue Corner.

The rounded point of a curving reef, Blue Corner is swept by currents strong enough that divers employ reef hooks (a small hook with several feet of line that attaches to a diver's BC) to watch the show. And what a show it is. On a recent trip I camped out at Blue Corner four separate times. As the strength of the current varied, so did the attractions. One day, reef sharks lunged desperately at big schools of jacks. Another, a giant Napoleon Wrasse bounded along with our dive group like a big playful puppy. On one dive, I joined a school of swirling barracuda in a dizzying swim. And on my last dive, a spotted Eagle Ray soared in from the blue and just sat in the current. I swam up from behind, only inches from its tail, and timed my photographs to the beat of its wings.

The reef itself is laden with iridescent soft corals and giant sea fans. Anemones are perched along the wall, usually with a photographer hovered over them, coaxing the resident

Center Stage in Nature's Play



WHERE: Blue Corner, Palau

WHY: It's a front row seat to nature in motion—always changing, always incredible.

HOW: www.visit-palau.com

clownfish to pose. And the entire scene is covered in what our dive crew called the VRPPBF, or Very Rare Palauan Pyramid Butterflyfish. Hundreds of these white, yellow and black beauties flit around the reef in big loose schools that look like clouds, providing just the right touch of beauty and chaos.

And that, really, is the attraction of Blue Corner. It is one of those special places where the confusion is breathtaking. —DARYL CARSON





Macro Mega-stars EVERYWHERE

I believe that the quality of a dive is directly proportional to the speed with which an underwater photographer shoots his film. For example, if he only manages to shoot a half of a roll of film, it was probably a poor dive. If he runs out of film as he runs out of bottom time, it was a good dive. But if he runs out of film only 15 minutes into the dive, well...that is truly bliss.

Bonaire's world-renowned Town Pier night dive is just such an experience. As we descended down the steps into the warm tropical water beneath the pier, the

sounds of celebration and Caribbean music from the nearby bars of Kralendijk faded away. An eerie glow from the streetlights on the pier silhouetted the rows of

pilings lined up before us. One by one, 13 dive lights powered up and began scanning the vertical columns. Immediately, the parade of color jumped to life. The columns were covered with encrusting sponges of every color imaginable, and the dense growth of Orange Cup Coral.

Cryptic Teardrop Crabs, Yellowline Arrow Crabs and decorator crabs were among some of the first creatures to be spotted. As we made our way forward, dive lights flickered back and forth from every direction—a sign that people were finding macro mega-stars everywhere. Among the notable things people saw that night were: two frogfish, two seahorses, a fight between two Spotted Morays, resulting in the loser being eaten by the winner (gag), nudibranchs and an assortment of sleeping fish that would have to be identified later.

A Purplemouth Moray, with an orange cleaner shrimp on its head, caught my lens' attention; then a Sharpnose Puffer sleeping on a sponge; then an arrow crab feeding amongst the Orange Cup Coral; then...only 15 minutes into the dive, I was almost out of film, blissfully. —ETHAN GORDON



WHERE: Town Pier, Bonaire

WHY: The easiest access to world class macro-photo ops.
HOW: www.infobonaire.com, 800-BONAIRE

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is a huge construct. Running along the Australian coastline from near Brisbane in the south to Cape York in the north, it is over 1,250 miles long, 45 miles wide and encompasses 2,500 separate reefs and 900 islands. Diving the reef can be accomplished by day boat out of coastal towns like Cairns and Townsville, from reef resort islands like Heron and Lizard, or, as is best, from a live-aboard.

Flying over the reef is perhaps the only way to begin to grasp its complexity and immensity. The 80,000-plus square miles of area is covered by reefs, islands and meandering channels, with scattered sand and grass flats

The Whole World in One Place

others, there are close snorkeling encounters with Minke and Humpback Whales.

Perhaps the most popular area is out of Cooktown, at the Ribbon Reefs. Ten different reefs, some as long as 12 miles, create a wild underwater world.

It is here that Cod Hole is found; a wonderful 50-foot-deep dive with a horde of large Potato Cod—friendly fish up to 4 feet long that crowd around divers, curious and completely unafraid.—AL HORNSBY

WHERE: Great Barrier Reef, Australia

WHY: 80,000 square miles of marine eco-diversity.

HOW: www.destinationqueensland.com, 310-697-0207



between, and mud flats in the areas near the Australian shoreline. The water offshore is brilliantly clear and lake-calm during good weather. The choices of dive sites are endless, with colorful corals, massive schools of fish, clouds of tropicals and rich invertebrate life the norm. At some sites, there are shark feeds with large numbers of Pacific Gray Reef Sharks. At



A day among the Galapagos Islands might include seeing Orcas, sea lions, Marine Iguanas and thousands of hooting, shrieking birds. As Herman Melville wrote, "I know not whether I am not the occasional victim of optical delusion concerning the Galapagos."

Six hundred miles off the coast of Ecuador, this archipelago is the Nature Channel on the Fritz. Several major ocean currents converge here with train-wreck subtlety. Divers have been unceremoniously swept down to 100 feet, then yanked back up to just below the surface in a blink. Nature, of course, gives and takes. Those same currents also bring tropical fish species from the north, cold-water species from the south, and Indo-Pacific species from the west. Here you will find undulating iguanas and Horned Moray Eels with yellow eyes; bottoms crawling with free-swimming Panamic Green Morays; herky-jerky schools Skipjack Tuna, Wahoo, Bottlenose Dolphins, Silky, Galapagos and Whale Sharks, Manta and Eagle Rays; and hundreds of Green Turtles. And, yes, the sinuous swarming masses of hammerheads for which the Galapagos are renowned.

—KEN MCALPINE

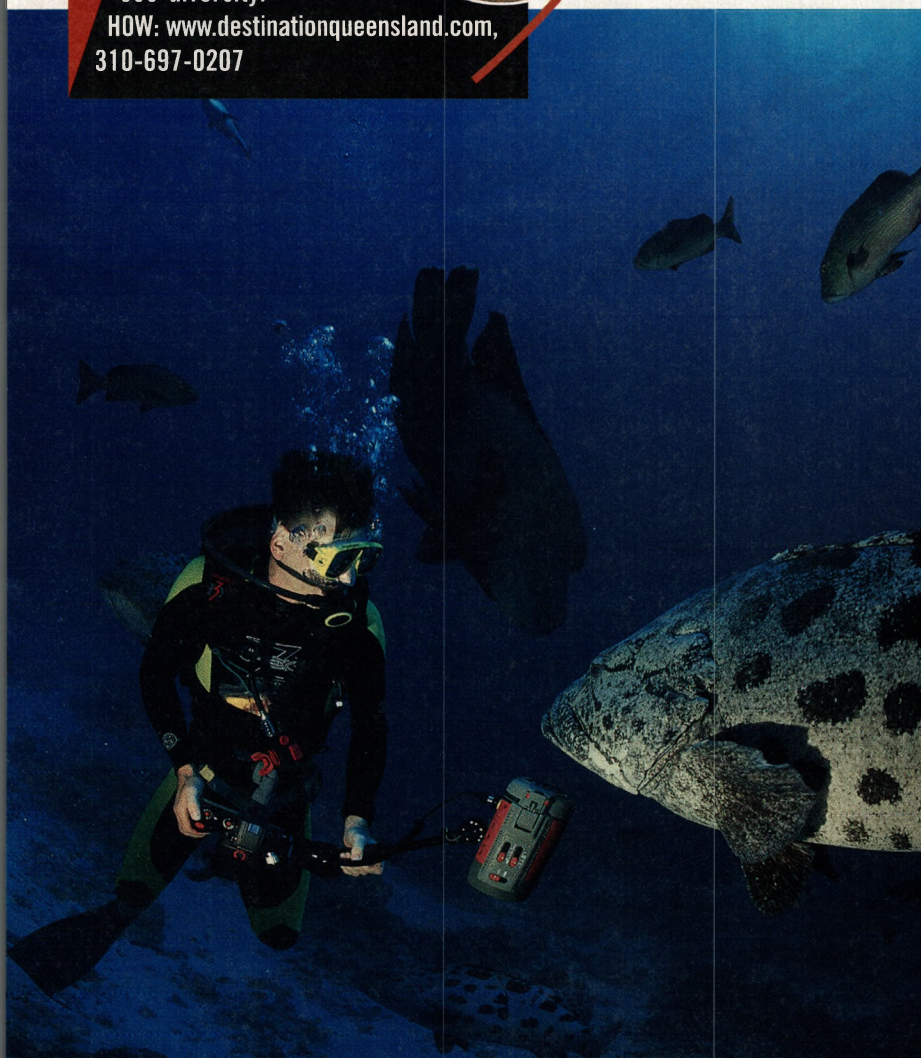
WHERE: The Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

WHY: Converging currents stir up endemic wonders.

HOW: www.galapagoschamberof tourism.org



Nature Channel on the Fritz



The year was 1987 and I was working on the live-aboard *Cayman Aggressor*. This was in the good ol' days, when the Aggressor Fleet consisted of two vessels, both in Cayman, and before what is now "Stingray City" was even a twinkle in the eye of the Cayman dive operators. Still, the word had gotten out that there was a place in the North Sound pretty close to the channel entrance, where stingrays flocked to the noise of boat engines. Because hard-working Caymanian conch fishermen had over the years cleaned their catch at this site, the result was that ravenous stingrays were attracted from miles around. Having heard the rumor, we aboard the *Aggressor* were anxious to see if the myth resembled reality.

We pulled gingerly between the teeth-like reefs of the North Sound, then inched our way back toward the west and

dropped our anchor on a sandy expanse that seemed to stretch for all eternity toward the island. Hanging back with the breeze, it seemed that we had found a safe, calm anchorage here, just inside the barrier reef. Once the big main engines were quieted, we got out the cutting board and a couple of boxes of frozen squid that we commonly used as bait when we trolled offshore. Each crewmember entered the water with a yellow catch bag dripping with the noxious squid stuff that is absolute nirvana to bottom feeders. We had no idea what to expect.

Now, I had dived with stingrays many times before. At a site not a mile from this one and just inshore from another famous site called "Tarpon Alley," we had found many stingrays, whose habit it was to lie buried in the sand, as if invisible. These rays would allow us to pass

A STINGRAY BALLET



PHOTO: DAVID DOUBLET

within a few feet of their cloaked bodies. Still, I had great respect for the stingrays, I knew that the stinger at the base of their tail could inflict a painful wound and it was my policy not to pass too closely to them and, under no circumstances, would I provoke a stingray by trying to touch its body.

With all this in mind, I dropped into the shallow waters of the sound, only to find myself rolled by a half-dozen rays. I froze as they glommed onto the catch bag that was attached to my dive belt. After a minute of complete paralysis, I realized that the rays had no intention of hurting me. Rather, they were only interested in the stuff in the bag. Taking turns, they would strafe my hair and even nuzzle under my arm. With new-found confidence, I stroked their underbellies, which I found to be very soft to the touch. As

WHERE: Stingray City, The Cayman Islands

WHY: To connect with the rays is to dance with the ocean.

HOW: www.caymanislands.ky,
800-346-3313



I slowly swam along, I found that I could feed each animal in turn with a bit of squid, then each would swim a short distance away, allowing for the next ray to move into position. The swim became a dance, a ballet of sorts in which I was interacting amiably with sea creatures that, prior to this dive—a dive at the soon-to-be Stingray City—I had completely misjudged.—CLAY H. WISEMAN



In 15 years of diving the Honduran Bay Islands I've witnessed the death and rebirth of Mary. If that sounds biblical, well, it kind of is. You see, Mary's Place

Ocean's Cathedral

(her proper name) is a dive site off the south shore of Roatan. And it's as close to a religious experience as any dive on the planet. As the vertical crack in the wall zigs and zags, shards of light filter through a crowd of gorgonians, tube sponges, purple sea fans and the rest of the happy wall dwellers. It's nature's version of Notre Dame's Rose Window, and just as moving.

WHERE: Mary's Place, Honduran Bay Islands

WHY: Geography, marine life and sunlight mix to create a heavenly underwater atmosphere.

HOW: www.hondurasinfo.com, 800-410-9608



Mary's long, narrow passage is just wide enough for one diver with good-to-excellent buoyancy control. And there's the rub. During the '80s and early '90s, lots of divers without proper skills fin-kicked Mary into critical condition. But thanks to responsible dive operators, Mary was closed for five years. Mother Nature administered the right medicine and Mary recuperated nicely. Now she's back to her old self, a

prolific sampling of invertebrate sea life set in a stunning canyon formation and bathed in crystal clear water. Kudos go to Roatan dive operators, who closed their most popular dive site and shunned profits for the greater good of the reef. Yes, it's a true aquatic parable, and a dive of divine inspiration.—FRED D. GARTH



WHERE: Silver Bank, Dominican Republic

WHY: 50-foot Humpback Whales that invade your personal space.

HOW: www.dominica.dm

It is one thing to think about or see whales from a distance, and quite another to swim eyeball-to-eyeball with a full grown Humpback, a creature more than 500 times your size.

My most memorable encounter was freediving in Caribbean waters at the Silver Bank in the Dominican Republic. My long-time buddy Steve Drogin and I had seen several dozen Humpbacks over the course of the day from our skiff, but had no close encounters. We were just about to take a break when a female and escort surfaced nearby.

This time, as soon as I slid into the water, the female swam directly at me and I found myself bobbing only a couple of feet directly above her head—more than 50 feet and 100,000

Very Close Encounters

pounds of live Humpback below me. I was too close for even my wide-angle lens to photograph the whale. I swam to my right in hopes of getting a better perspective, but the whale turned with me as I moved. So I went left, and once again, the whale turned with me. Suddenly, it dawned on me that this was a game. Who even dreams of such things?

Amazingly, Steve and I spent almost five hours swimming with these whales, often coming within inches of us without ever once making contact. More times than I could keep track of, I was ascending underneath a long pectoral flipper only to have a whale gently lift the flipper out of my way as I rose. I easily could have reached out and touched the female, but something in my gut told me that would be a violation, so I abstained.

It was humbling, inspiring, exhilarating, enlightening and very personal. The dive of a lifetime.—MARTY SNYDERMAN

PHOTOS: MARTY SNYDERMAN; (OPPOSITE PAGE) ERIC HANAUER

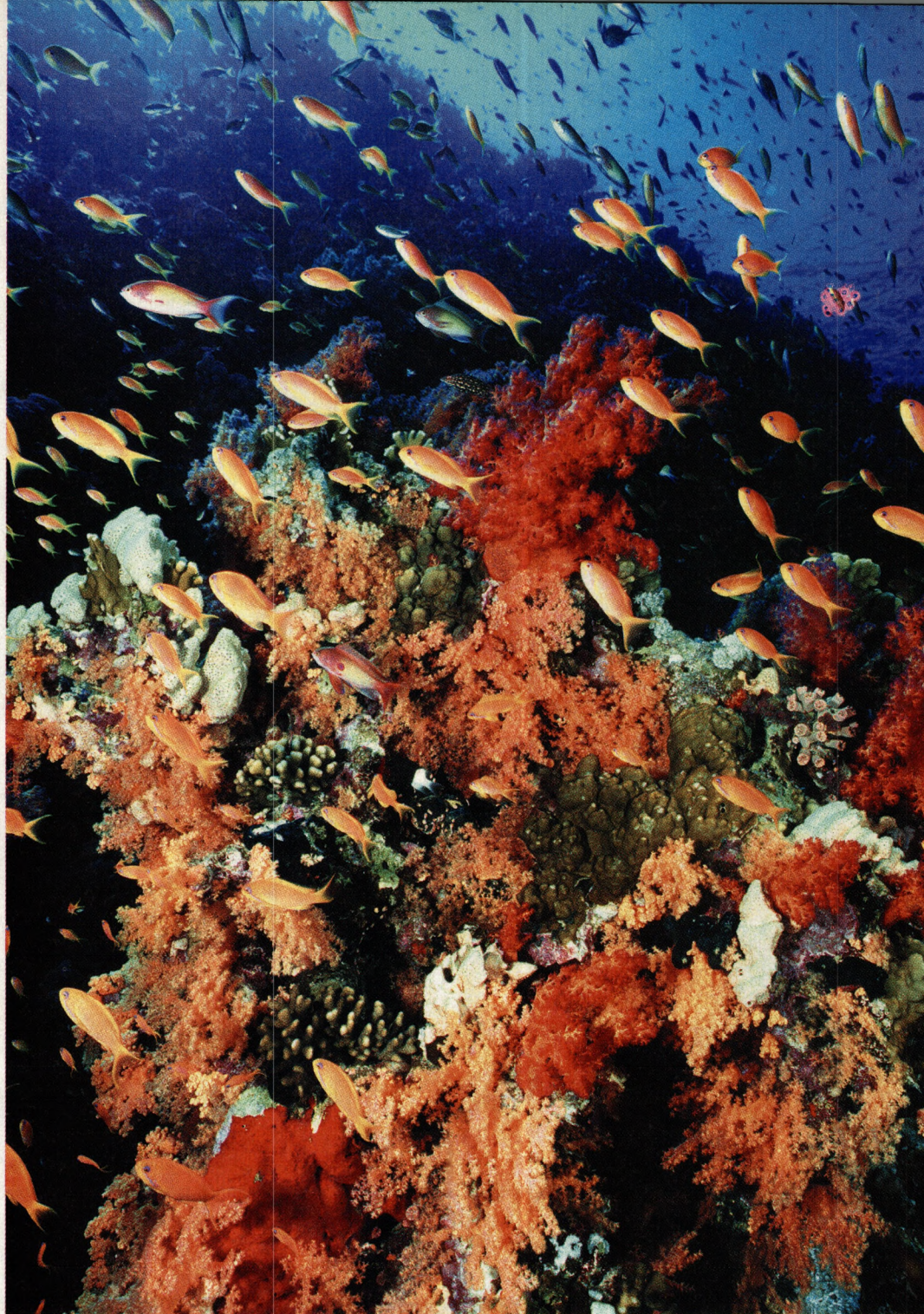
In every list of the world's best dive sites, Ras Muhammed, at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula in the Red Sea, ranks near the top. Despite many years of intense diving pressure, this granddaddy of Red Sea dives continues to enthrall newcomers and veterans alike.

Actually, it's not just one dive, but an extensive area encompassing several sites: Shark Observatory Wall, Jolanda Reef, Anemone City and The Quay. But when people refer to Ras Muhammed, they usually mean Shark Reef, a small, circular offshore pinnacle that protrudes directly into deep water,

Three-Ring Circus

attracting pelagic species as well as a rich variety of reef fish. A dive there is like a three-ring circus, as attention is divided between the sea fans, soft corals and reef fish on the wall, and the massive schools that swarm in blue water. On the eastern side, the sheer wall drops off deeper than any prudent diver should go. Leaving the wall and heading into blue water, you may be surrounded by hundreds of jacks, snappers, batfish, tuna or barracuda, with the occasional shark cruising below.

Despite its name, this is not such a great place to see sharks. However, turtles, Napoleon Wrasse and schools of Unicorn Surgeons hover along the ledges and crevices of the wall. The dive finishes with a safety stop at the shallow anchorage, which, despite the battering from the fins of thousands of previous divers, is still a fish-watcher's delight. Everything



from Titan Triggers to crocodile fish, morays to stonefish, may be encountered there.

In the 20 years since my first trip to the Red Sea, the region has been transformed from a barren desert to a tourist paradise, with all the advantages and drawbacks that term suggests. But its waters remain home to some of the richest marine life on the planet.—ERIC HANAUER



WHERE: Ras Muhammed, Red Sea
WHY: Sensory overload.

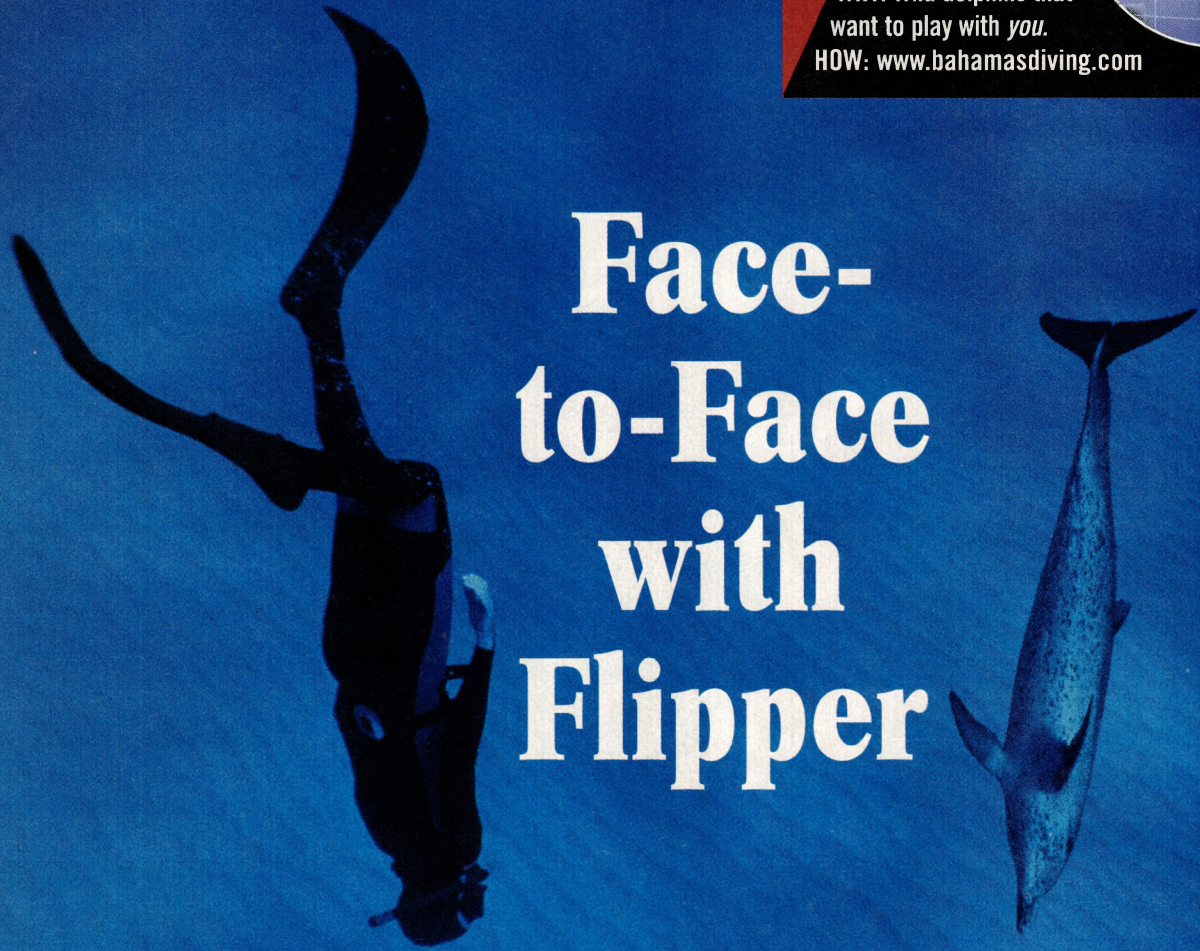
HOW: www.egypttourism.org, 877-773-4978



WHERE: Banks of the
Bahamas Islands

WHY: Wild dolphins that
want to play with *you*.

HOW: www.bahamasdiving.com



Face- to-Face with Flipper

As someone who specializes in big animal photography, you might say that I'm in the dive-of-a-lifetime business. However, my favorite dive doesn't even involve a scuba tank. Freediving with wild dolphins just requires a snorkel, patience and a little luck.

Large pods of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins roam the Bahamas Banks, and after years of interacting with people, these dolphins have come to understand that we do not represent a threat. Several of the dive boat captains that regularly visit the Little Bahama Banks have become acquainted with the dolphins on an individual basis and gained their trust. Now, even a clumsy goof like me can get in the water and swim with a wild dolphin three or four times a day for a week.

One of the reasons I love swimming with wild dolphins is their conscious awareness of me. A coral reef is pretty, but it doesn't interact. Dolphins not only recognize your presence, but can leave you in the dust if they desire. Any interaction you have with the dolphins comes from their curiosity and playfulness. Imagine if you were walking through the woods and a wild deer came over to play. It would never happen.

But for some remarkable reason, dolphins do it. If you manage to entertain them (I find that blowing bubbles, making noise and generally acting like a fool works best) they will stay around for hours, squeaking and chirping to each other in constant communication, no doubt making fun of you. Some people stay in the water with the dolphins for hours, unwilling to get out until the dolphins finally leave.

Occasionally the dolphins invent games to play. Many years ago, a captain friend of mine noticed that dolphins often pick up a piece of seaweed and carry it around on their heads, flippers or tails. He joined the fun by introducing a brightly colored bandanna, letting go of it and allowing the dolphins to steal it. This evolved into a game of "keep away." The dolphins play with the bandanna, each trying to steal it from the other while, at the same time, the snorkelers try to steal it back. This can go on for hours until someone finally gets the bandanna back (or not).

Few dives can match the incredible thrill of playing tag with a wild animal so seemingly in tune with the human soul.—JONATHAN BIRD

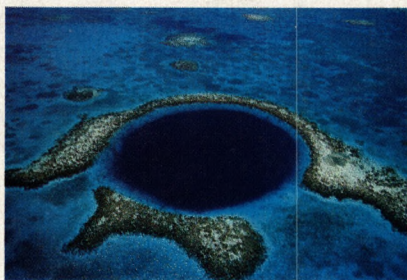
PHOTOS: JONATHAN BIRD; (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) GREG JOHNSTON; DONALD TIPTON

Proof of

The first time I visited the Blue Hole, I approached the edge with a bit of trepidation. It seemed eerie that in an area surrounded by such healthy coral formations, the hole was void of any marine life. The slope leading to the edge of the Blue Hole is mostly silty sand. It's as if everything that has tried to grow on the edge had slowly seeped into the bottomless pit.

I slowly finned over the edge and watched as my dive group carefully hugged the wall, while descending into the depths. Descending deeper into the hole, the wall began to slope back, forming a bell shape. Soon the wall became a ceiling. At a depth of 110 feet, I could begin to see the ghostly shadows of stalactite formations appearing like arthritic fingers pointing toward the bottom. The bizarre limestone pillars become more intricate and intense much deeper. And much farther below, stalagmites reach towards the surface.

At 130 feet, I swam carefully among the monstrous stalac-



Nature's Power

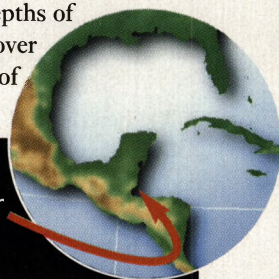
tites, formations that once stood high and dry above the surface some 15,000 years ago when the world was in the midst of an ice age and the sea level was more than 300 feet lower. Huge caves formed when fresh water flowed through the limestone and created the stalactites. As the sea level rose from the

melting of the polar icecaps, the top of the dome, which once covered the Blue Hole, collapsed. Viewed from the air, the eye-like hole is a deep indigo purple and coral brow. I was awed at its size. Perfectly circular, with depths of more than 400 feet and a diameter of over 1,000 feet, it is one of the true wonders of the diving world.—GREG JOHNSTON

WHERE: Great Blue Hole, Belize

WHY: Be dwarfed by an underwater wonder of the world.

HOW: www.travelbelize.org/marine



Every diver should seize the opportunity to do the blubber hover with a Manatee. These dudes may be fat, but they're slow, too! And while they'll never win an Olympic sprint, Manatees are terribly cute and cuddly, kind of like giant, wet Beanie Babies.

Unfortunately, Manatees seem to have no fear of boats and each year sharp propellers cut and kill dozens of the animals. Numerous organizations are fighting to protect Manatees, by creating no wake zones, and are trying to require prop guards on boats in Manatee hang outs. However, you can still visit these friendly underwater blimps, swim with them and become one with their hugeness.

Crystal

River and Homosassa Springs, along the central, west coast of Florida, is the planet's best place to find Manatees.

This area is home to the world's largest population and even has a few year-round residents. The best time to visit is in the dead of winter, when area water

temperatures drop and the Manatees flock to the warmer 72°F springs.

When I took my skinny 5-year-old daughter to Crystal River, she was shivering but squealing with joy. Fifteen or 20 of the big boys were lumbering around a shallow lagoon, eating seaweed or sleeping—apparently their two favorite pastimes. As the name implies, the water was crystal clear and snorkeling was (and is) the best way to observe Manatees.

Unlike the high-speed action of a dolphin or whale encounter, Manatees are perfect for everyone. Non-divers, new snorkelers, kids, retirees—anyone can spend time with nature's cutest and most bulbous critters.—FRED D. GARTH



Bulbous Beauty



WHERE: Crystal River, Florida

WHY: The chance to snuggle with an endangered species.

HOW: www.visitcitrus.com, 800-587-6667



Swim With Jellies

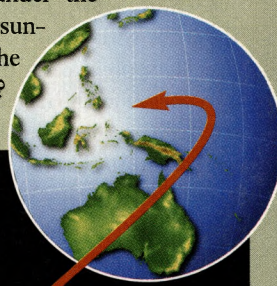
Visit Palau and one of the highlighted excursions will be immersing yourself in a lake full of jellyfish. Tucked into one of the innumerable rock islands that make up this part of Micronesia, Jellyfish Lake's resident pulsing blobs have long been isolated from the open sea. They have adapted by feeding on a particular algae that grows in the lake. Each morning, as the sun comes up, the jellies rise from the bottom of the lake to the

surface and spend the day pulsing from one shore to the next. Since they no longer feed on other small critters, the jellyfish have lost their ability to sting. Bare-skinned snorkelers can now glide through their midst without fear, the sting replaced by an almost sensuous tickle. Freediving under the mass and looking up reveals beams of sunlight that pierce, dazzle and dapple the water. Beautiful jellies that don't sting? It must be magic.—DARYL CARSON

WHERE: Jellyfish Lake, Palau

WHY: The chance to swim in living Jello.

HOW: www.visit-palau.com



When the U.S. Navy began testing atomic bombs in 1946, nobody dreamed that 50 years later Bikini Atoll would become one of the world's premiere wreck-diving destinations. The legacy of the first two blasts, Able and Baker, are 21 ships at the bottom of the lagoon.

Now, it's safe to visit Bikini, because background radiation is far less than found in any large city. The ships are also free of radioactivity, but pose a different challenge: depth. Their hulls rest at 180 feet. The most renowned are the

Life After Death

USS *Saratoga*, the first U.S. fleet aircraft carrier, and the *Nagato*, flagship of Japan's Admiral Yamamoto, from which he commanded the attack on Pearl Harbor. Other

diveable shipwrecks include the submarines *Pilotfish* and *Apogon*, the battleship *Arkansas*, the attack transports *Gilliam* and *Carlisle*, and the destroyers *Anderson* and *Lamson*.

This is technical diving. Aside from *Saratoga*, depths range from 130 to 180 feet, with bottom times of 30 minutes and deco stops twice that long. But the reward for the risk is incredible. Bigger than the *Titanic*, *Saratoga* requires three or four dives just to get an overall impression. Inside the hangar deck are three Helldiver dive bombers and an Avenger torpedo bomber—bent and beat up, but all instruments remain in the cockpits. Lines have been placed in the interior of the ship, so it's possible to make guided penetrations.

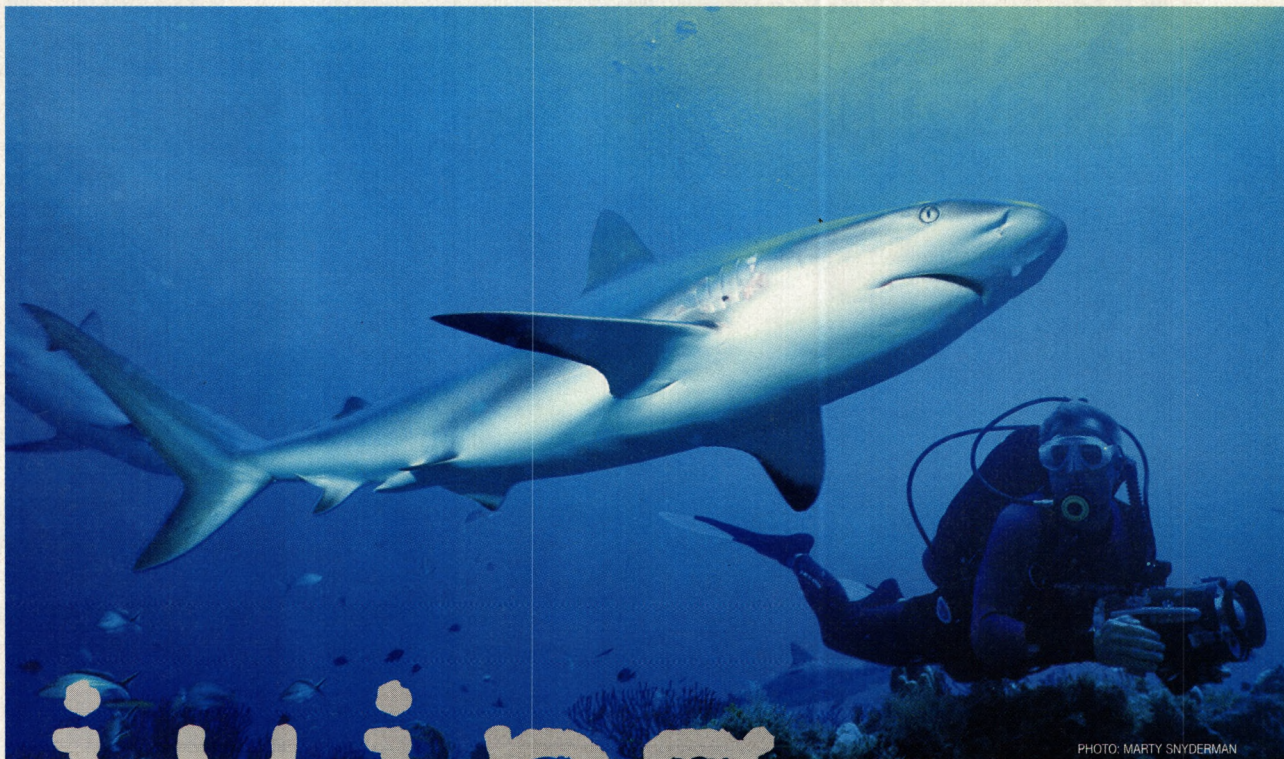
When diving Bikini, you are touching the face of history.—ERIC HANAUER



WHERE: Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands

WHY: 21 war wrecks—one larger than the *Titanic*—all in one place.
HOW: www.bikiniatoll.com/divetour.html





Divine

The Ultimate Adventure

There is a world of reasons why divers and snorkelers are so passionate about their sport. It means traveling to beautiful destinations. It means interacting with nature in its most breathtaking settings. It means high excitement and encounters with the marine world's most awesome creatures. And much, much more...

Tropical Destination Travel • Learning to Dive • Dive and Snorkeling Equipment • Underwater Photography



For all that diving and snorkeling have to offer, visit us online at www.skin-diver.com

Paychecks in Paradise

It's a myth that you can't make a great living at diving. All it takes is our high employer demand for our uniquely qualified graduates.



Graduates 100%* Placed Worldwide 1992 - 2001

1-800-331-4255
305-743-5929 In FL
FAX 305-743-8168
www.hallsdiving.com

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
100% ALL COST FINANCING
1+ Prime - 15 Yr Terms - Approved applicants
APPROVED FOR VETERANS TRAINING

CAREER INSTITUTE at HALL'S
 at Faro Blanco Resort & Hall's Diving Center • 1994 Overseas Hwy • Marathon, FL Key 33050

*100% 1992-93 FETPIP; 1993-01 100% placed 6 out of 8 types of Instructor programs, 98% placed on an average of all Institute programs including Divermaster and Repair Tech. As a result of a vocational program review, locally collected vocational student follow-up data have been used to compile this information. The methods used to collect this information are specified by state laws and rules. These data are available for inspection upon request.
 Licensed by: The Commission for Independent Education, Tallahassee, FL Lic. #94. Composite Photo: Underwater class on the reef at the Institute.

Dance with the Devil Fish

The Revillagigedos Islands, 220 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, are a taste of Baja the way it used to be. Encounters with Señor Big are the main attraction, with monstrous, 20-foot-wing-span Manta Rays that steal the show. The best spot is The Boiler at San Benedicto, the island's prime cleaning station, where juvenile jacks, wrasses and Clarion Angelfish nip parasites from the Mantas' skin.—ERIC HANAUER

WHERE: The Boiler, Revillagigedos Islands, Mexico
WHY: Blow bubbles with Giant Mantas!
HOW: www.visitmexico.com



WHERE: Cocos Island, Costa Rica
WHY: Schools...no, armies, of sharks, jacks, billfish and rays that will run you over.
HOW: www.tourism-costarica.com

Pelagic Invasion

Costa Rica's Cocos Island, 300 miles off its Pacific Coast, is so small it doesn't make it onto many world maps, but it delivers schooling hammerhead sharks like Mickey D's serves up Big Macs. In addition, divers can see Silky Sharks, turtles, billfish, Manta Rays, Marble Stingrays and schools of jacks so dense they obscure the sun. Cocos allows divers the opportunity to see the truly fantastic. On one trip I witnessed balls of baitfish being slaughtered by sharks, dolphins, tuna and dive bombing sea birds...only at Cocos.—MARTY SNYDERMAN




EQUINOX® INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS, INC.
 9820 Portage Rd., Portage, MI 49002

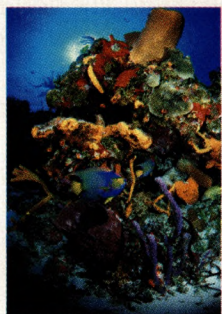
UNDERWATER VIDEO HOUSINGS

- Custom-made
- 3-year warranty
- Easy to use
- Affordable

OFFERING A FULL LINE OF LIGHTS & ACCESSORIES

Building Video Housings to accommodate all camera makes including: Canon®, Hitachi®, JVC®, Panasonic®, Samsung®, Sharp®, Sony®

Call Today : 1-866-324-0596 (Domestic Toll Free), 269-324-0596
or visit our website for more information www.dive-equinox.com



Palancar Reef, Cozumel is one of the world's greatest (and most affordable) diving destinations. Geologically, it's an impressive 15-mile-long wonderland of sheer walls, sand chutes, tunnels and

Ride the Reef

outrageous sealife. It drops from about 40 feet into the infinite blue and is bathed with warm, clear water and a perpetual current. Fortunately, the current runs parallel to the reef so you can fly along like you're on a Harley. It's a helluva ride.—FRED D. GARTH

WHERE: Palancar Reef, Cozumel

WHY: A magic carpet ride over incredibly healthy Caribbean reef.

HOW: www.visitmexico.com



WHERE: Bloody Bay Marine Park, Little Cayman

WHY: The king of consistency—every dive offers the amazing.

HOW: www.caymanislands.ky

Bloody Bay Marine Park, on the northwest coast of Little Cayman, is really two dive sites. Jackson's Bight is predominantly shallow reefs, while Bloody Bay features sheer vertical walls. They consistently offer the best of Caribbean reef diving. You can make a deep wall dive, then ascend to the shallow reef to off-gas. Personally, as my photography career has matured, so have my experiences at Bloody Bay. From shrimp cleaning my fingers, to male jawfish aerating eggs in their mouths and nights spent with a barrel-rolling Manta Ray, Bloody Bay always opens a window for me to document the magnificent spectrum of marine life behavior.—

FRANKLIN VIOLA

The Sure Thing

MAKE YOUR DREAM A REALITY...



...TRAIN TO BE A COMMERCIAL DIVER.

REALITY Train in Tropical Sunny Florida

REALITY Certified in Only 13 Weeks

REALITY Live on Campus

REALITY Train in a Real World Environment

REALITY Highest Training Standards at the Lowest Cost

Call COMMERCIAL DIVING ACADEMY Today!

1-888-974-2232

8137 N. Main Street • Jacksonville, FL 32208
cda@commercialdivingacademy.com

WWW.COMMERCIALDIVINGACADEMY.COM

© SD/AD 0210



COZUMEL

**BEST VALUE IN THE CARIBBEAN!
ALL-INCLUSIVE SPECIAL**



COSTA CLUB

ALL-INCLUSIVE SPECIAL! \$669

7 nights hotel • 5 two-tank morning boat dives
4 FREE single-tank afternoon boat dives
ALL MEALS AND UNLIMITED BAR!

DIVE PARADISE

The name you know and trust in
Cozumel since 1984.
www.diveparadise.com



Bay Adventures

Dive Adventures and Island Vacations

**TOLL-FREE
1-888-599-3483**

INFO@BAYADVENTURES.COM

WWW.BAYADVENTURES.COM

Call for discount airfare and more info! Per person dbl. occ. valid 4/1-12/23/02. Holiday restrictions apply.

©SD/AD 0210



Meeting the Challenges
of Today's Dive World

© SD/AD 0203

DIVE INTO A SAFE FUTURE WITH PDIC INTERNATIONAL!

**Dedicated to
the principal of the
"complete course
concept"**

- Instruction for over 30 years
- Facilities located worldwide
- Instructor Trainer, Instructor, Nitrox Instructor, D/S
- All Levels of Continuing Education



PDIC INTERNATIONAL, USA

P.O. BOX 3633

Scranton, PA 18505 USA

Phone : (570) 342-1480

Fax : (570) 342-1276

E-mail: INFO@PDIC-INTL.COM

Web: WWW.PDIC-INTL.COM

**Call or write for
your FREE info kit.**



Jean-Michel Cousteau

**FIJI ISLANDS
RESORT**

**JOIN THE
ADVENTURE!**

Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team invite you to explore the magic of Fiji aboard the dive boat L'Aventure, providing unparalleled access to some of the world's most spectacular land and seascapes. From tight canyons and plunging walls to colorful reefs and the denizens of Shark Alley, Fiji's waters have it all.



For reservations: 800-246-3454 USA and Canada
North America Reservation Center (415) 788-5794 • Fax (415) 788-0150
e-mail : info@fijiresort.com • http://www.fijiresort.com

Beautiful Caves

Divers, even snorkelers, can explore the water-filled passages beneath Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Over the centuries the soft, porous ground has been carved into a daunting labyrinth of tunnels, chambers and cenotes. The latter are crystal clear pools created when the roof of a cave collapses, giving entrance to this amazing world. Here, caverns are adorned with dazzling stalactite and stalagmite formations that glisten when illuminated by rays of sunlight reflected by the water.—DARYL CARSON

WHERE: Cenotes of the Yucatan Peninsula

WHY: A chance to peek at the world's most beautiful caves.

HOW: www.visitmexico.com



WHERE: Southern California's Kelp Beds

WHY: Sea lions dancing between the God beams.

HOW: www.ladiver.com/socal

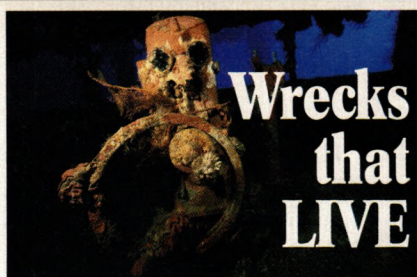
Magic Forest

On ideal days, few places on earth are as inviting and awe inspiring as a healthy Southern California kelp forest. Below the flat-calm surface water and clear blue sky, shimmering rays of sunlight dance through a towering forest of giant kelp. As far as you can see, plants and animals gently sway in perfect synchrony with the ocean's ebb and flow.

Gliding amongst the kelp fronds is a very peaceful, somewhat surreal experience on these days. At least, that is probably how you will feel until the frenetic energy of a group of California Sea Lions becomes part of the scene. Then, the mix becomes one of the diving world's greatest pleasures.—MARTY SNYDERMAN



PHOTOS: MARTY SNYDERMAN; (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) CLAY WISEMAN; DARYL LENIUK



Wrecks that LIVE

Truk Lagoon, in the Western Pacific islands of Chuuk, was a huge Naval post for the Japanese in World War II. Bombed in February of 1944, it became a wreck graveyard of more than 70 ships. Now enshrouded in a brilliant covering of soft corals, sponges and shellfish, and surrounded by swirling schools of fish, each has been transformed into an artificial reef of immense proportions.—AL HORNSBY

WHERE: Truk Lagoon, Micronesia

WHY: A wreck diver's Disney Land—accessibility, history and incredible soft corals.

HOW: www.visit-fsm.org



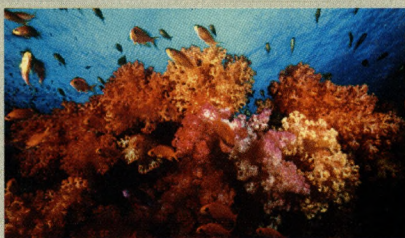
WHERE: Namena Reef, Fiji

WHY: Color saturation from soft corals and marine life extrodinare.

HOW: www.bulafiji.com

Fiji-Color

The underwater pinnacle before me is an explosion of life. It juts up from the depths to within a few feet of the surface. Large brushes of pink and purple soft coral and giant gorgonian fans sway in the spin cycle of current and surge. Clouds of



orange Fairy Basslets pulse upward, then retreat back to the shelter of the reef as jacks dart in looking for an easy meal. This is North Save-A-Tack Passage, off Namena Island in central Fiji and part of the larger Namena reef system. It's classic underwater Fiji—breathtaking. A place that dazzles with colors like no other.—DARRYL LENIUK

HAWAII'S LARGEST DIVE AND ACTIVITIES CENTER



7 Stores Island Wide
Maui's Newest Fleet of
Custom Jet-Drive Boats
Daily Dives to Molokini
Crater & Lana'i Cathedrals

Both Molokini Night Dives & Back-Wall Dives

SSI & PADI Facility

Hawaii's Largest Full Service Rental Department

Your Complete Source for All Island Activities

Discounts on Hotel Reservations,

Multiple Activities & Group Rates



Log on to our
website for a
**FREE MAUI DIVE
GUIDE** or video
a complete
guide to Maui's
most popular

snorkeling and diving
locations. Contains detailed
full color maps to the best
dive sites.

800-542-DIVE

mauidiveshop.com

corporate offices • 1455 South Kihei Road • Kihei, Maui, Hawaii 96753

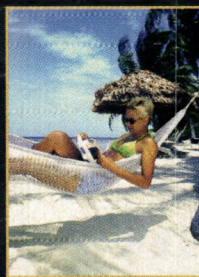
email: scuba@mauidiveshop.com

Your Own Private Peninsula!

Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras



Pristine Snorkeling & Watersports



Relaxing Surface Intervals



Custom Dive Boats

1-800-668-8452

LAGUNA
BEACH
RESORT

www.utila.com



World Class Diving



Air Conditioned Bungalows

• ANSE CHASTANET RESORT • SCUBA ST. LUCIA •

One of the Caribbean's most unique hideaways and St. Lucia's only resort located in the heart of the marine reserves. Enjoy the romance of ANSE CHASTANET and dive with our PADI/SSI/NAUI facility SCUBA ST. LUCIA, St. Lucia's premier scuba operation.

• TRANQUILITY • ROMANCE • ADVENTURE •

888-60-LUCIA (465 8242)
P.O. Box 7000 • Soufriere, St. Lucia, West Indies
Tel: (758) 459-7000 • Fax: (758) 459-7700
Call us for our color brochure, contact your favorite travel agent or go to
<http://www.ansechastanet.com>

Sea Vision®
The Leader in Dive Lens Technology

Chameleon
Sea Vision

**ADAPTS
with a
SNAP,
to ALL
diving
conditions**

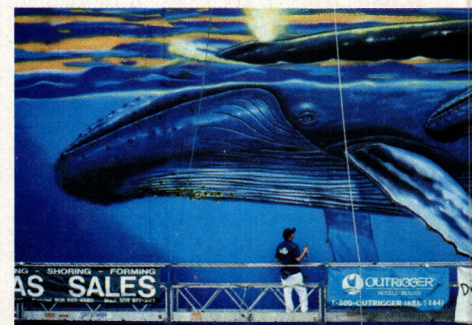
Sea Vision should be your **FIRST**
Ask for Sea Vision by name
at your local Dive Center

www.seavisionusa.com

4399 35th Street North • St. Petersburg, Florida • 33714
info@seavisionusa.com • 800-732-6275 • Fax: 800-659-0284

FREEFLOW Wyland Honored

HAILED FOR HIS WHALING Wall murals around the world, marine life artist Wyland has received the John M. Olguin Award from the Friends of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium for his contributions to ocean conservations and environmental education.



The award was presented to Wyland by Dr. Robert Schuller, founder of the Crystal Cathedral, at a ceremony at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium on April 27. Past recipients include underwater explorer Jean-Michel Cousteau, marine biologist Dr. Sylvia Earle, architect Frank Gehry and marine life photographer Bob Talbot.

"Wyland was selected because through his art he raises awareness about our ocean resources and that helps everyone in the marine community," said Michelle Sprockereef, a spokesperson for the Friends of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. "And his educational programs are very much in line with what we do as far as our goals to educate children about the marine environment."

The John M. Olguin Marine Environment Award is presented to individuals, businesses, corporations or organizations that have demonstrated a significant contribution to the betterment of the marine environment, generation of interest in young people in marine science, enhancement of public science education or development of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

Wyland is considered one of the world's most well-known marine life artists. His work is seen by an estimated one billion people every year. 🐟

To learn more about Wyland and preview his portfolio, visit www.wylandgalleries.com.

Skin Diver
is proud to present

ULTIMATE ANTARCTICA

Retracing, in part, Sir Ernest Shackleton's heroic rescue mission

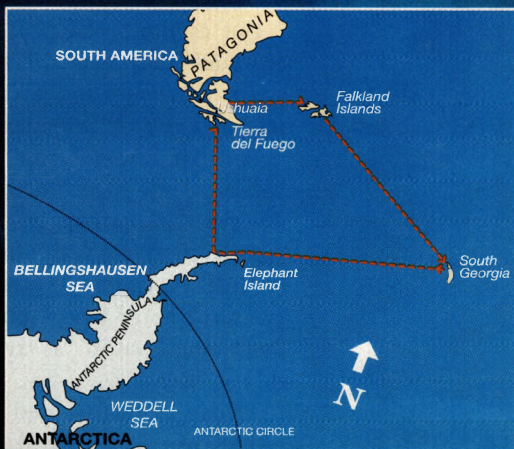
FALKLAND ISLANDS • SOUTH GEORGIA • ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 16, 2004

With your Host
Amos Nachoum and the Skin Diver Team



Amos Nachoum a renowned expedition leader, has led *National Geographic* expedition teams with Dr. Eugenie Clark, Dr. Sylvia Earle and astronaut Buzz Aldrin. His award winning photography has appeared in more than 500 publications worldwide.



Join Skin Diver Expeditions for an incredible 20 day diving and photographic adventure of a lifetime in January 2004 on board the "Grigoriy Mikheev". Your voyage starts in Ushuaia sailing to explore the fascinating Falkland Islands, then re-trace part of Sir Ernest Shackleton's incredible journey on South Georgia, then continue on to the magnificent Antarctic Peninsula. Visit a colony of 100,000 King Penguins, the Giant Albatross community, the magical splendor of Antarctica, and much more. This is a historic voyage with superb photographic opportunities and unique diving experiences. Space is very limited, call today to make your reservation.

1-866-423-3483
www.BluePlanetAdventure.com



The art of the sea

Expressing their passion for the ocean realm in images both captured and created, these artists speak for us all

By Steve Creech

Oil and water don't mix. At least that's what they say. But dog-eared adages haven't stopped marine artists from donning wetsuits and plunging into undersea chasms and crevices to interpret the undersea world. The tools of the trade vary from artist to artist. Some paint their pictures with photos; others with a brush or chisel; and still others through motion pictures. What sets them apart is an abiding passion for nature coupled with the talent, instinct and experience to capture the fleeting seconds when the secrets of the sea are revealed.

Through research, reflection and a careful attention to craft, they celebrate the miraculous and uncover the extraordinary. Guy Harvey's soaring pelagic fish defy gravity in ways that would turn engineers at NASA green with envy. The photographic art of Bob Talbot dares to venture into the minds of marine mammals. The blue cathedrals of light created by Wyland's marine life paintings have an otherworldly, sanctifying quality.

The list of names goes on. Photographers such as David Doubilet, Norbert Wu, James Watt, Al Giddings, Al Hornsby, Doug Perrine and Chris Newbert; artists Richard Ellis, Larry Foster and Kent Ullberg; filmmakers such as Howard and Michele Hall; and early artists such as Stanley Meltzoff, Russ Smiley and John Steel, whose illustrations graced the cover of *Skin Diver* magazine in the 1950s and 1960s, have all carved a niche in a field

"The technical aspects can be learned," says Bob Talbot. "But to be able to see a sequence like Howard Hall does, that's what people aspire to. Or guys like Doubilet who find the light, the composition, and put it all together to make a great photograph. Everybody has their own take, their own style. If they bring that into their films or photographs and bring people into that environment, then that's what it's all about."

76 www.skin-diver.com

Looking back

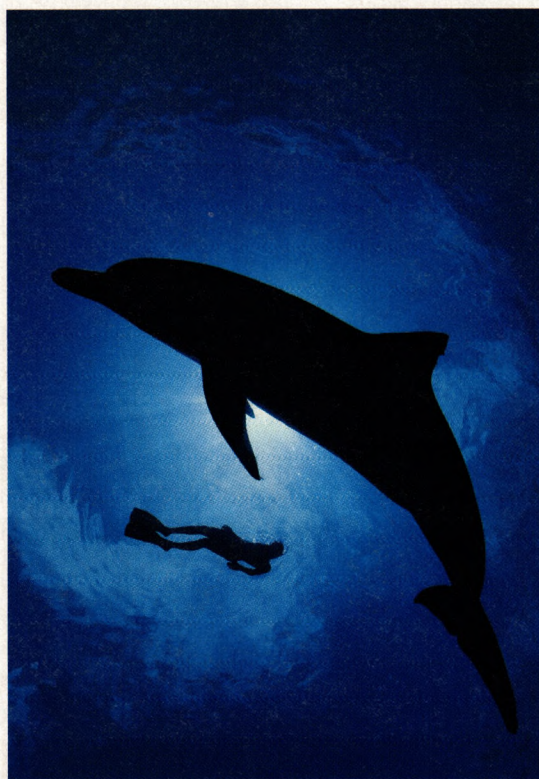
Artists have always been inspired by the sea. The only difference was that hundreds of years ago the sea was considered a world to be conquered. Sea life was to be harvested. So it comes as no surprise that the palette of subject matter seemed

limited to raging seas, monsters from the depths and men perched with harpoons on a launch, seconds away from death. Even the medium artists chose often reflected their attitude toward marine life. With thousands of sperm whales slaughtered each year, one of the few unusable by-products—the animals' teeth—were put to use in scrimshaw, richly detailed images of ships etched directly into the tooth.

But as times changed, so did attitudes, starting in 1934, when scientist William Beebe ventured off the coast of Bermuda in his deep-diving vessel, the bathysphere, for a record-breaking descent. Surprisingly, Beebe wasn't motivated by breaking records. He simply wanted to see creatures never before observed, describing a world "as strange as that of Mars."

"Artists in the past used to paint images of whales based on the dead whales that washed up on beaches," says marine life artist Wyland. "Many of those illustrations appeared distorted because of the effects of gravity on the animal. But thanks to advances in diving, we've been able to see the animals swimming free in their natural environment, weightless and in their true anatomical proportion. So the artist can create a more realistic depiction."

Communicating that sense of weightlessness continues to drive photographers like David Doubilet, who has photographed more than 40 stories for *National Geographic* and is considered among the world's premier underwater photographers. Like many of the top marine life photographers,



Bob Talbot combines subject, light and composition to transcend mere documentation in this photograph.

PHOTO: BOB TALBOT. (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) WYLAND'S "RADIANT REEF"



Paintings, such as this Wyland seascape, can build upon realism with imagination to portray the essence of the underwater world.

"It's all a new vision," Doubilet says. "Whether it's an artist's vision or a photographer's vision. Up until 50 years ago, everything was shot through glass darkly, or with great imagination. These days we're looking more and more carefully at the way animals look and behave. We're getting away from simple documentation."

That approach is taken to its logical conclusion by artists such as Wyland and Guy Harvey, both experienced divers, who use photography in large part as reference for their paintings and sculptures. Both artists explore a subject for weeks, drawing from their photographic work to develop their compositions. Taking creative license allows them to portray the natural dramas in the ocean that are seldom seen—the birth of a Humpback Whale; the predator-prey interaction among billfish. Often, these interactions happen so quickly, or so rarely, that there is no time to photograph them.

Beyond the lens

"Painters have a certain advantage in that they can go beyond a photograph," says Wyland, who has translated his diving experiences into his Whaling Wall

murals, an ongoing life-size public arts project in 29 states and four continents. "They can control the light, the color, the motion. They can take an image to another level by creating a composition that communicates the spiritual quality of the moment, that shows marine life in a new way. When it all comes together there's no feeling like it."

Wyland says the key to finding that link between art and the spiritual quality of the undersea world comes from seeing his subjects first-hand. He has logged thousands of hours underwater, studying sea life and habitats under every condition. Yet he finds himself returning again and again to what he considers one of the seminal moments of his career—his first dive with Humpback Whales 20 years ago off the coast of Maui. "Even today when I'm painting or sculpting," he says, "I still reflect on that encounter. Those kinds of moments are never far away from you as an artist."

Growing up in Jamaica, Guy Harvey spent years watching battles between sportfishermen and marlin. A marine



One way to enjoy artists' work is through collections—such as Guy Harvey's latest, *Portraits from the Deep*—which can offer readers intimate insights into the artists and their inspiration.

Inspired by dives
with Humpback
Whales in the
Dominican
Republic's Silver
Banks, Wyland
incorporated a new
technique to bring
the concept of
motion to the can-
vas in his painting
"Life of Whales."



Get the Urge
to Submerge with

Join "Greg The Divemaster"
for the absolute latest
diving news and
information.

Call in to participate in
discussions about dive sites,
new gear, liveaboards,
shark diving, and more.
Plus you'll hear interviews
with diving legends and have
the opportunity to win lots of
cool dive related prizes!

It's brought to
you by:

**SCUBA
RADIO**

Heard on
over 50
radio
stations
throughout
US and
worldwide
over the
Internet!

Live chat during
every broadcast!
Now 2 hours
long every week!

The World's First Radio Show
Devoted to Diving

WWW.SCUBARADIO.COM

Skin Diver

Listen live every Saturday
from 3-5pm EST or to
archives of past shows
worldwide over the Internet.

biologist, he studied billfish extensively at Aberdeen University in Scotland, and later at the University of West Indies. But his interactions were always at arm's length, either through academic research or through the world of sportfishing. Then, in 1994, off Cocos Island, Harvey entered the water for an up-close look at his subject—an experience that changed his approach to art forever

"The minute I entered the water with billfish, everything was different," Harvey says, "Their feeding colorations underwater, their speed, their acceleration. The agility for such a large animal was mind-boggling. To see these animals underwater in a natural state was the ultimate experience."

Timing is Key

All the artists agree that a successful encounter with sea life can be engineered to a certain extent by looking for the right animal, in the right place, under the right conditions. But all are just as quick to admit that the success depends on equal parts luck.

With six Emmy awards to his credit, Howard Hall is one of the world's most sought-after underwater filmmakers. His work is currently featured in *Coral Reef Adventure*, a new IMAX film, which, in addition to exploring and photographing more than 60 reef environments, reveals the tremendous work and potential dangers involved in underwater cinematography. Hall calls serendipity "a huge factor" in his work. "It also depends a lot on how you define luck," he says. "People constantly tell me I'm really lucky. The truth is they don't see the footage that

"Fishers underwater video cameras brave the dangerous sites, so you don't have to."

Jack Fisher, President

JW FISHERS

ROVs, Dropped, Towed, and Diver-Held cameras available

Call for a free catalog or to order our demonstration video.

SeaLion ROV

"Fishers underwater video products are cost effective tools for underwater search and inspection. From low-cost mini cameras to sophisticated ROVs, Fishers has a system to fit your application and your budget."

DDW-1
Depressor Wing

SSS-100/600K
Side Scan Sonars

Proton 4
Marine Magnetometer

Pulse 8X
Underwater Metal Detector

MC-1
Mini Camera

JW Fishers Mfg Inc., 1953 County St., E. Taunton, MA 02718 USA • (800)822-4744
• Tel. (508)822-7330 • FAX: (508)880-8949 • email: jwfishers@aol.com • www.jwfishers.com

Wyland brings marine life art front and center at diving's biggest trade show

Visitors to DEMA (Diving Equipment & Marketing Association) 2002 in Las Vegas, NV, can see the work of today's most celebrated marine life photographers and artists in a special exhibition curated by marine life artist Wyland. Wyland, who is the official artist for the event, will also create a 100-foot-long, 8-foot-high canvas mural entitled, "Clean Water for the 21st Century," to celebrate the efforts of marine life artists and environmentalists in conserving marine habitats.

"We're delighted to have such an acclaimed artist working with us," said Regina Franklin, executive director of DEMA. "Having Wyland on board draws even greater attention to the dive industry and spotlights our efforts toward preserving the beauty of the world's oceans."

Attendees can view the art exhibition of sculptures, paintings and

photography as they walk through the entrance to the DEMA Show main floor at the Las Vegas Convention Center, October 22 to 25. Attendees will also be encouraged to lend their artistic talents to a portion of the marine life mural that Wyland will co-create with sportfishing artist Guy Harvey.

Wyland says the art exhibition, which is intended to be the first of a series of annual events, emphasizes the rapidly growing interest in marine life art and photography in the diving industry.

"I've always felt it was important to showcase the most original and acclaimed painters, sculptors and photographers in marine life art in a group exhibition," says the artist, who also developed the promotional material for this year's DEMA 2002 Show. "What better place to do that than DEMA?"

is the result of bad luck. Good luck is really a combination of opportunity and preparedness."

And being selective.

"On land," Harvey says, "you can sit and wait patiently to get that shot of whatever you're targeting, whether it's a jaguar, a lion. But it's much more difficult in the oceanic realm because of the difficulty of the environment. There is so much space, and you've really got to narrow down the hunt."

Eye for conservation

Harvey's choice of the word "hunt" is mildly ironic given the fact that most of today's top marine life artists, photographers and cinematographers consider themselves conservationists. They maintain they are documenting conditions of the oceans and its habitats and, to various degrees, advocating responsible environmental behavior. Even as their work adorns museums, galleries and private collections, their images have been adopted by environmental groups, non-profit foundations and educational programs around the world as a visual lesson.

"For many people, we're a window to the ocean," Bob Talbot says. "I think as the issues facing the ocean become more and more urgent, artists and filmmakers have even more responsibility now than they ever have. Our job is to make people aware of what we stand to lose. I hope that the work that all of us do instills an empathy for the animals we share the planet with. The flip side is if that doesn't happen and the trend continues, then we're providing a legacy for the ocean. It's a sad thought, but it's also a very possible outcome." 🐟

**7 Nights, 5 day/2 tank,
breakfast & airport transfers
from only \$692 p/dbl**





REDISCOVER NATURE

Overlooking the Caribbean Sea, cradled in the majestic beauty of **DOMINICA'S** mountainous landscape... is the **FORT YOUNG HOTEL**. Enjoy breathtaking views, superb cuisine, health & beauty center and more! Discover **world-class scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, whalewatching** and **hiking** to spectacular waterfalls and luxuriant rainforests.

Discover the Romance of Adventure!
Toll-free 1-866-389-6864
 (FT-YOUNG)

(781) 821-6016 / Fax: (781) 821-1568
www.fortyounghotel.com • sales@travelmarketing.com
 or call your favorite dive travel specialist




Dive the Best of Barbados



Barbados oldest & largest established dive facility. 35 years of service. PADI, NAUI & ACUC certification courses & referrals. Reef, Wreck & drift dives. "Service is our Goal" "Safety is our Priority"

Aquatic Gap & Canvans Lane • St. Michael
 Tel: (246) 426-9947 • Toll Free: 1-888-898-3483
 Fax: (246) 426-2031
www.divebds.com
hardive@caribnet.net
www.coralisle.net

THE DIVE SHOP LTD.



Hightide Watersports offers the most personalized service in Barbados. Our 32' boat carries a maximum of 8 divers with 2 dive masters to over 24 dive sites. Reef, wreck, drift, night, buddy, and computer diving along with FREE transportation to and from your hotel are just a small part of what we have to offer.



Toll Free: (800) 513-5763
 Ph/Fax: (246) 432-0931
hightide@sunbeach.net
www.divehightide.com

Bonaire

MADE EASY!

***New Air Jamaica Service from 9 U.S. Cities
Every Wednesday, Friday & Saturday!***



Our reservations staff of Bonaire travel professionals take the hassle out of finding the lowest rates and best options. E-mail or call us at 800-748-8733 and we'll arm you with our list of best airfares, dive package deals, planning tips and lodging reviews that will make planning your Bonaire trip a breeze. You can even book your trip online at www.BonairePros.com



info@bonairepros.com
www.bonairepros.com
800-748-8733 • Fax 601-353-7559

[illegible]

DEMA Show 2002

From October 22 to 25, 2002, the dive trade will gather in Las Vegas, NV, for DEMA's first "Fall Show." Numerous new business programs and events have been scheduled. For attendees, new educational seminars have also been developed, and many of diving's celebrities will be on hand: Jean-Michel Cousteau, Cathy Church, Wyland, freediving champion Megan Heany-Grier and others.

For more information, call (800) 862-3483 or visit www.dema.org.

5th Annual UBCPS Underwater Photo Competition 2002

The Underwater British Columbia Photographic Society (UBCPS) will sponsor its 5th annual international underwater photography competition this year. Giveaways from sponsors will include live-aboard trips, dive vacations, photographic equipment and dive gear. All entries are due by October 25, 2002.

For more information, visit
www.ubcps.bc.ca.

Pacific Cup of Freediving 2002

The Pacific Cup of Freediving 2002 will take place in Kona, HI, October 28 to November 4, 2002. This is the first international freediving competition to be held in the United States.

For more information, call (808) 960-0137, or visit www.aidausa.org.

Beneath the Sea Photo Competition

The deadline for Beneath the Sea's 27th Annual Photo/Video Competition will be December 31, 2002. Contestants will compete for the David Doubilet award for excellence in underwater photography (including a week aboard Peter Hughes' *Star Dancer* in Palau), or the Stan Waterman award for excellence in underwater video (including a week of diving for two aboard the *Nimrod Explorer* in Australia). The winners will be announced at Beneath the Sea's Film Festival of the Dive and Travel Exposition in March 2003.

For contest rules and application, visit www.beneaththesea.org.



St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Jewels of the Caribbean

We welcome you
to our unspoiled
necklace of 32 islands
and cays in the Eastern Caribbean,
1,600 miles from Miami, USA.

Spectacular landscapes...
beautiful beaches...
turquoise blue waters...
the Jewels of the Caribbean!

www.svgtourism.com
800-729-1726
e-mail: svgtony@aol.com




Aqua Cat at anchor in the Exuma Cays
Land and Sea Park, Bahamas

AQUA CAT

CRUISES

diving, snorkeling, sea-kayaking, fishing, birding, beaching, sunning, snoozing...

...102 feet of liveaboard luxury leaving weekly from Nassau to the Exumas.

0 P.O. Box 661658 Miami, FL 33266
Tel: 1-888-327-9600 • 305-888-3002 Fax: 305-885-3323
email: sd@aquacatcruises.com www.aquacatcruises.com

© 2001 Rick Fritzsche/Aqua Cat Cruises

**Twice the fun...
Half the cost!**



**Only
\$789
/week**

BAHAMAS LIVEABOARD

We include: • **FOOD • BEVERAGES (SODA, BEER, WINE & RUM DRINKS)**
• **ACCOMMODATIONS • TANKS • WEIGHT BELTS • 3 DIVES A DAY**
• **ISLAND EXPLORATION • FISHING • SAILING • SHELL COLLECTING**
• **OUT ISLAND NIGHTLIFE • LOBSTER HUNTS • VIRGIN DIVING**

Blackbeard's
CRUISES

Call: (800) 327-9600 • (305) 888-1226

Fax (305) 884-4214

www.blackbeard-cruises.com • E-mail: sd@blackbeard-cruises.com

FREEFLOW Freediver Breaks Constant Ballast Record—164'

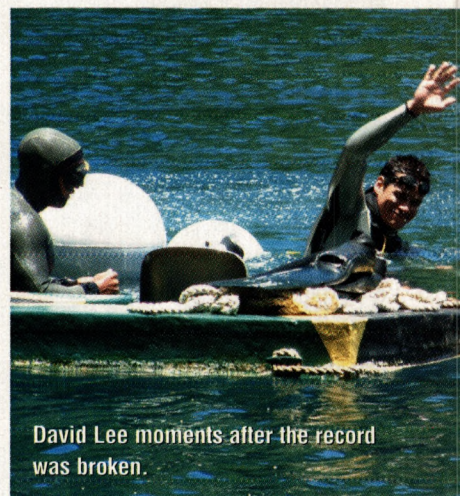
IN JULY, JAMAICAN-BORN DIVER David Lee broke the world record for an Unassisted Constant Ballast dive in Port Antonio, Jamaica, at the island's legendary Blue Lagoon, where Jacques Cousteau once dived nearly 200 feet and still could not touch the bottom.

Lee's dive of 164 feet took two minutes and 14 seconds and broke the previous record by 10 feet.

The Unassisted Constant Ballast is considered the most difficult and physically demanding of all freediving categories; the diver may not use equipment for propulsion, a line for pulling or oxygen tanks.

"Breaking the record was one of the most satisfying achievements in my freediving career," said Lee following the dive. "You can plan to see more records from me in the future," he added.

"We are very proud of David, and we are delighted that he was able to break the world record in this very demanding and physically challeng-



David Lee moments after the record was broken.

ing free dive," said the Honorable Portia Simpson Miller, Jamaica's Minister of Tourism and Sport.

Lee, 25, resides in Tulsa, OK, where he is a computer systems manager. Born in Kingston and raised in Port Antonio, Lee learned to swim before he could walk. 🐟

Pacific Rockfish Closures Tough, But Much-Needed Step

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE TODAY called a recent Pacific Fishery Management Council's ruling to protect dwindling West Coast rockfish stocks an unfortunate but necessary action to address steep declines in important fish populations that could become extinct.

"We had hoped, in recent years, that regulators would institute appropriate preventive measures to restore these fisheries in time to avoid the need for broad closures," said Environmental Defense marine conservation advocate Richard Charter. "But...the Council finally found itself facing a very hard



Rockfish spared more fishing pressure.

decision on how to stop the steep declines in important fish stocks which might otherwise continue toward extinction." Charter went on to say that the Council's action was a tough, but much-needed step.

The Council voted in late June to immediately close major areas of the West Coast continental shelf and slope to bottom fishing for the remainder of this calendar year. The closure comes at a time when mounting scientific data, in the form of newly completed "stock assessments," points to the need for cutbacks in fishing activities in order to prevent a complete collapse of some species. The move is an attempt to limit any further demise of commercially valuable groundfish species including Pacific red snapper, grouper and fantail.

The Pacific Council's actions, which included an order that all bycatch be released, were aimed at protecting both targeted species and associated bycatch species. 🐟

EASE Eastern Academy of Scuba Education

Dive into a NEW CAREER with EASE!
Become a PADI Scuba Instructor in Florida.

**Meals and Room
INCLUDED**

in all our Career Programs



**Ask about our
Dive Industry Specialist
Program**

- ★ International Job Placement
- ★ PADI IDC & IE EVERY MONTH
- ★ Small and Personal Classes

**We conduct a full range of courses,
including Instructor Crossover Programs,
EVERY MONTH**

416 Miracle Mile Plaza,
Vero Beach, Florida 32960
Email: ease@deepsix.com

1-800-732-9685

www.deepsix.com

1-561-562-8338

Our front yard is a wreck,



1 week... all food...

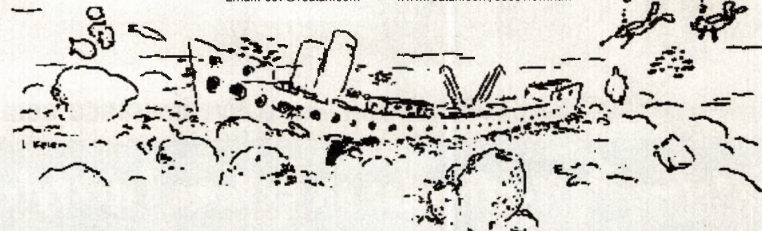
unlimited diving. 110 ft wall right
from the beach! Call our toll-free number and
we'll answer all your questions and send you
a beautiful brochure. A family operation.

Travel arrangements

1-800-282-8932

Email: ccv@roatan.com

www.roatan.com/cocoview.htm



CoCoView Resort

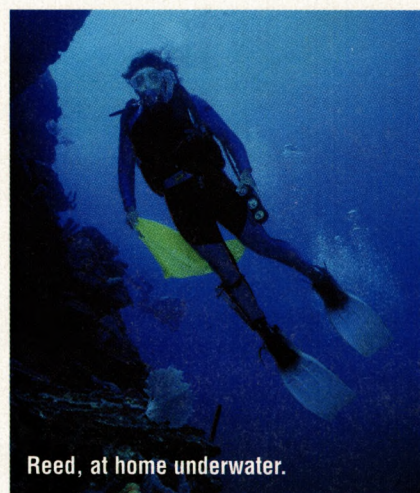
Roatan, Honduras Bay Islands

FREEFLOW In the Name of Science

WHEN SHE WAS 12 YEARS OLD, Women Divers Hall of Fame member, Sherry Reed, already knew that she wanted to be a marine biologist. True to her expectations, Reed now works as a research specialist and the diving safety officer at the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce, FL. Over the last 19 years, she has participated in numerous oceano-

graphic expeditions including diving with sea snakes and lionfish in Papua New Guinea, collecting algae from the most beautiful algal forests of Diamond Rock, Martinique, and diving over fields of Tridacna, on the Great Barrier Reef, diving in Cape Verde and Canary Islands. In 2001, Reed was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences.

Reed has collaborated with many



Reed, at home underwater.

DIVER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Who Has the Best Dive Accident Program? We do!

Although most dive accidents aren't serious, even minor injuries can be expensive. Many health insurance policies don't cover diver-related injuries, especially recompression chamber treatments, leaving you with a huge expense if your insurance isn't diving-specific.



Newly enhanced benefits to the gold and platinum levels make this insurance second to none in the dive industry.

NO:

- ☒ deductible (except on medical nondive accident coverage)
- ☒ mileage minimum (except on medical nondive accident coverage)
- ☒ annual or lifetime limit (except on medical nondiving, cancellation and interruption)
- ☒ pre-authorization required in most areas
- ☒ depth limit on gold and platinum levels

YES:

- ☒ we accept divers from any agency
- ☒ all ages
- ☒ worldwide protection
- ☒ Assist America benefits available on all programs

To sign up call (800) 223-9998 or register online at diveinsurance.com

Extreme Protection for an Extreme Lifestyle

Discount for
PADI Diving Society Members

PADI
padi.com

Outside the U.S. call
(714) 739-3177 or fax (714) 739-3188

License #0578496

VICENCIA & BUCKLEY
Insurance Services, Inc.
www.diveinsurance.com

scientists and admits that her position at the Smithsonian Marine Station offers her the best vantage point: "This position allows me to work for a select number of scientists on a long-term basis, continuing their research in their absence." Field work comprises the bulk of her time, whether piloting boats, dredging, collecting, diving or snorkeling. "Every day is different, depending on the plants or animals that are being collected. It is often hot, arduous, sweaty hard work," Reed confides.

Reed's current long-term field research projects include studying the burrowing activity of fiddler crabs on the growth of black mangroves, and monitoring the ecology of tropical marine algae and sea grasses of the Indian River Lagoon.

But Reed's tasks at the Smithsonian go beyond pure science. At Fort Pierce, she is challenged with both administrative and logistical responsibilities. As a member of the Smithsonian Institution Scientific Diving Control Board, she teaches training courses, performs check-out dives and facilitates reciprocity between and among other oceanographic institutions and universities. Reed holds numerous instructor-level certifications for dive safety and dive accident management and has used her rescue skills on numerous occasions.

Reed also holds a U.S. Coast Guard captain's license and certifications for cylinder inspection and equipment repair. And was recently inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. 🐟

—Hillary Vidars, Ph.D.

THIS IS WHAT A DIVING VACATION IS SUPPOSED TO BE. THIS IS A PLACE with warm water—from sun-drenched turquoise to impossible blue—and schools of fish so dense they can be seen from the air. This is Los Roques, Venezuela. It is a group of islands and islets found approximately 85 miles north of Caracas, Venezuela and 100 miles east of Bonaire. The archipelago is the Caribbean's oldest actively managed marine park and covers 850 square miles. Within this area, guests of the Peter Hughes

Horse Eye Jacks still swim by at regular intervals, blotting out the sun.

If one ever tired of watching the endless circus of activity above the reef, an entire dive could be spent investigating the nooks of a single giant coral head. Corkscrew and Giant Anemones play host to cobalt blue Pederson Cleaning Shrimp, while gobies move across the coral faces and various types of blennies dart from view. Orange cup coral cling under small outcroppings. Lettuce Sea Slugs in almost fluorescent green tra-

Vibrant Venezuela

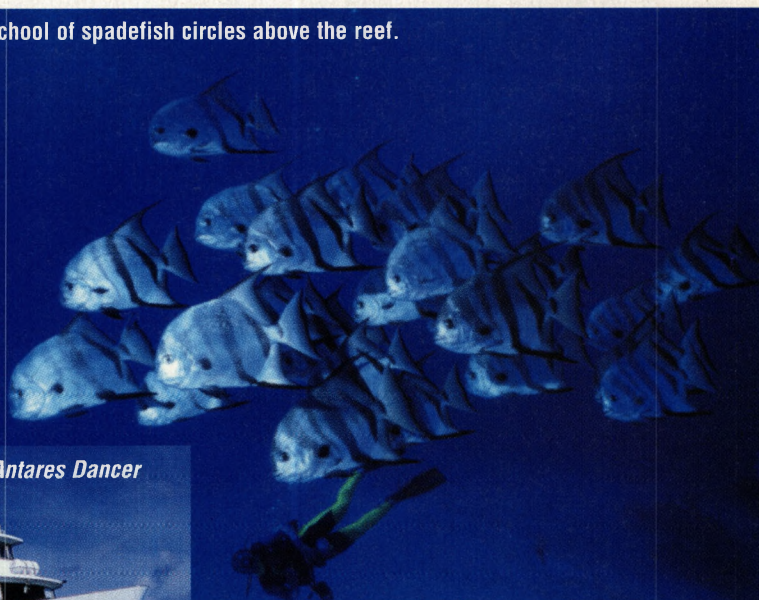
Peter Hughes' *Antares Dancer*

Diving *M/V Antares Dancer* dive luscious reefs that enthrall the most seasoned dive travelers.

Peter Hughes aptly describes the marine life of Los Roques as "the New York City of the Caribbean." Hundreds of surgeonfish, chromis, blue tangs and many others perform the intricate dance of life above the reefs. Enormous Rainbow Parrotfish are seen regularly. Nurse Sharks lounging on the sand are a common sight on the reef called "The Ledges" while their more active cousins, the Eagle Rays, cruise in precise formation just beyond the vast tangles of gorgonians. On the sandy flats at the end of one of the reefs, divers are often surprised by dozens of Golden Eels, Yellowhead Jawfish and the occasional flounder. On the park's most famous dive site, the Pinnacle, one can expect schools of snapper, barracuda, grunts and possibly an octopus or two along with an amazing assortment of wrasses and damselfish. Perhaps it is because only 1,250 to 1,500 divers make their way to this unspoiled spot each year that huge schools of spadefish and

verse the encrusting corals that cover every available bit of space. Most of the walls climb so close to the

A school of spadefish circles above the reef.



M/V Antares Dancer

surface that safety stops can be done in full view of the reef! The short tender rides back to the *M/V Antares*

Dancer are often peppered with sentences starting with "I've never seen so many..."

After each dive, guests are treated to warm fluffy towels, a gourmet meal or snack and the opportunity for a nap on the sun deck. Although the *M/V Antares Dancer* is not the largest ship in the Dancer Fleet, a maximum of 12 guest per charter ensures that each guest will receive personalized attention from the fantastic crew. TV/VCRs in each stateroom, plush terrycloth robes for guests use while on board, morning coffee service to the staterooms and evening turndown service are just a few of the ways guest of the *M/V Antares Dancer* are pampered.

Reservations may be made by calling 800-9-DANCER or sending an e-mail to dancer@peterhughes.com.



ESCAPES

NOT LONG AGO I ATTENDED A GATHERING OF WELL-traveled divers. Inevitably the conversation turned to the question, "Where are you going next?" I said that I was headed for the Cayman Islands in a couple of weeks, and I asked who in the group had been there. Everyone had. Most more than once. That information did not surprise me as the Cayman Islands has long been a "must see" destination for divers. My follow up question was, "What do think of when you think of diving in the Cayman Islands?" And that is when the fun began.

For several members of the group, their fondest memories of diving the Cayman Islands is the pure exhilaration of plummeting down a vertical wall with a



As the conversation progressed, it once again became clear to me that there are as many reasons to visit the Cayman Islands as there are ways to experience these Caribbean jewels. Grand Cayman and the sister islands, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, accommodate a wide range of diving vacations. You can enjoy the adventure of exploring Cayman's waters by diving all day and into the night, or you can make a dive or two a day and spend a leisurely afternoon lounging by the pool or strolling down a beach. You can enjoy the solitude of an isolated beach and allow your batteries to recharge, or you can choose to discharge a little stress by dancing the night away at a local club. If you want to enjoy some gourmet food and fine dining, you are a pleasant walk or a short taxi ride away, and

The Cayman Islands

Adventure for Every Diver

TEXT & PHOTOS BY
MARTY SNYDERMAN



stunningly colorful reef on one side and cobalt blue on the other. Some said it was the ease of diving and the accessibility and variety of dive sites. One diver spoke of the thrill of watching Spotted Eagle Rays soar over a reef and witnessing the incredible variety of fascinating marine creatures. Of course, the warm, clear water, great weather, colorful reefs, stunning fish and great night dives were mentioned as well.

86 www.skin-diver.com



if you want to experience the island lifestyle and local culture, just ask. Visit as part of a group or go on your own. Either way, it is easy to fit right in!

In 2003, the Cayman Islands is celebrating their Quincentennial - 500 years of recorded history since Christopher Columbus's first sighting of the islands in 1503. A full year of fun and fascinating events have been planned. Log on to www.caymanislands.ky for special savings offers and all the details on the activities. Or, call 1-800-4-CAYMAN.

How to Be Desire-free

Brac Reef Beach Resort

TEXT BY
MARTY SNYDERMAN

HAVE THE DESIRE TO REALLY GET AWAY FROM IT ALL, BUT STILL want it all? Have a craving to explore Neptune's Realm and plummet down a spectacularly colorful wall loaded with marine life? Maybe a few wreck dives and some night diving is just what you are looking for. Want to chill out on the beach, by the pool, at the bar? Go for a bike ride or a hike? Do some fishing; play some nighttime tennis; swing in a hammock and enjoy a gentle sea breeze? Relax in a jacuzzi or pamper yourself with a rejuvenating massage? How about, "All of the above!"

Located on the southwest tip of Cayman Brac, the Brac Reef Beach Resort can accommodate all of these desires, and then some. With spacious, air-conditioned guestrooms that provide the comforts of home; an exciting menu of gourmet specialties offered at the casual, on-site Coral Garden Restaurant where you can dine inside or on the patio; a 1,000-foot-long stretch of sandy



beach, and world class diving only minutes from the dock—a diver's life doesn't get any better! Add a fleet of modern dive boats, all the necessary equipment and a staff of seasoned instructors, and you will find the on-property dive operation, Reef

Divers, has everything a tropical diver needs, including certification courses, rental gear, new equipment, Nitrox, still and video rentals and repairs and film processing. Reef Divers takes guests diving at both Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, including the world famous Bloody Bay Wall. A variety of dive, hotel and meal plans are available to fit all budgets and travel schedules.

Brac Reef Beach Resort

Tel: (800) 594-6326

Web: www.bracreef.com

E-mail: bestdiving@reefseas.com

All About You

Don Foster's Dive Cayman

TEXT BY
MARTY SNYDERMAN

AS IT HAS SINCE 1982, THE NAME "DON FOSTER'S DIVE Cayman" remains synonymous with the diving scene in Grand Cayman. With two dive shop locations—one along the George Town waterfront, and the other at the luxurious Comfort Suites and Resort on world famous Seven Mile Beach—the facilities are ideally located to accommodate all your on-island diving needs. Don Foster's Dive has an excellent safety record and the highly professional staff prides itself on its ability to assist you, guide you, teach you or even take a more hands-off approach if you so desire.

The five boats in the fleet depart daily from the George Town and Snug Harbour docks. All of the vessels provide plenty of room, dry storage areas and very easy water entries and exits. Freshwater rinse tanks are available for dive computers and camera gear are available as are camera work tables and ice chests for snacks and drinks. Your choice of breathtaking dives down spectacularly colorful walls on the two-tank dive trips, as well as teeming coral reefs and wrecks on the one-tank trip are available on a daily basis as the fleet visits the north, west and south sides of Grand

Cayman. Visits to world-famous Stingray City and critter-filled night dives are also scheduled regularly. If looking for some professional instruction, look no farther.

The staff at Don Foster's Dive provides a wide variety of classes, from Resort Courses and Open Water Diver certification to Assistant Instructor and numerous specialty certifications.

Don Foster's Dive Cayman, Ltd

US/Canada toll-free phone @ reservations office:

(800) 83-DIVER or (800) 833-4837

Web: www.donfosters.com

E-mail: dfd@candw.ky



Cayman Diving School

Scuba Instruction for the Inspired

TEXT BY
MARTY SNYDERMAN

THIRTY PLUS YEARS ago, when I wanted to get into diving, I had no idea how to get started. I proceeded by camping in Mexico for six weeks, kicking around south Florida for several months (where I got certified), heading off to the Caribbean for a while before eventually heading west to San Diego where I became a diving instructor. It was a long trip, filled with a lot of research, misinformation, some bad decisions, indecision and plenty of uncertainty.

Today, if I was young again and wanted to pursue the same path, there is no doubt in my mind that I'd head straight for the Cayman Diving School (CDS) in Grand Cayman. Obviously, Grand Cayman is a wonderful place to dive. And no place in the world can help you realize your recreational diving dreams or professional goals better than CDS. This PADI 5 Star Instructor Development



Center is ideally located on Grand Cayman's world renown Seven Mile Beach across the street from the Strand Shopping Center. Recently re-located, it is absolutely sparkling and new, with a huge retail store, great rental equipment and stellar classroom facilities. The international staff under the leadership of co-owner and PADI course director Renee Knight is best described as rock solid, highly skilled and professional.

If you are on vacation and want to scratch your snorkeling or scuba diving itch for the very first time, the Cayman Diving School can

take care of your every need. At CDS you'll find a complete selection of PADI recreational courses from the Resort Course to Divemaster. If you are already certified and want to add to your skills, the list of PADI Specialty Courses includes: Equipment Specialist, Deep Diver, Kayak Diver, AWARE Fish Identification, Boat Diver, Dive Propulsion Vehicle Diver, Drift Diver, Multilevel Diver, Dolphin Semiclosed Rebreather Diver, Enriched Air, Search and Rescue, Underwater Naturalist, Photography and Videography.

I am sure you get the idea,

so it probably comes as no surprise that the same type of comprehensive PADI curriculum is available for those who want to turn their hobby into a profession. The CDS can help you become an Assistant Instructor,

Instructor, Oxygen Provider, learn Medic First Aide and much more. For a full list of their instructional development programs check out their new website at www.caymandivingschool.com and go to PADI Professional Courses under Education.

A full slate of DAN (Divers Alert Network) courses are also offered as are DSAT (Diving Science and Technology) Technical Training courses. Nitrox training is available through IANTD (International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers) and TDI (Technical Divers International) Nitrox and Advanced Nitrox courses. So whether you have professional aspirations, are on vacation and want to check-out scuba diving for the first time, need to rent equipment or further your diving education, CDS has what you need. Their prime location, first rate facilities and professional staff make CDS the perfect place to learn anything and everything about diving—from how to do it to how to make it your career.

Tel: (345) 949-4729

Web: www.caymandivingschool.com

E-mail: skindiver@caymandivingschool.com

Cayman Customization

Grand Cayman's smaller operators take pride in personalized service

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF PROVIDING MORE personalized service to smaller groups of clientele, a few of Grand Cayman's dive operators function within a business philosophy best summarized by the phrase "Smaller is Better." No taking a number and getting in line here. Instead, you receive individualized service on customized vacations as the owner/operators and their staffs happily spend their time helping you enjoy your diving vacation in any way they can. The setting is far more intimate; the service more personal and focused; yet the dive sites are the same as those that are visited by the biggest operators.

The "Smaller is Better" mantra is the guiding philosophy for Dive 'N Stuff, Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman Ltd., Off The Wall Divers and Red Baron Charters. These operations all offer specialized training courses, Nitrox, complimentary transportation pick-up and drop-off services, and convenient gear set-up, handling, rinse and storage.

DIVE 'N STUFF

Offering a fast V-hull that carries a maximum of six divers and a custom-built tri-hull pontoon boat that can accommodate 12 divers, Dive 'N Stuff prides itself on being the most flexible operator on Grand Cayman by offering customized trips to suit your schedule. Paul and his Dive 'N Stuff crew let divers select their dive sites at locations all around the island, while creating custom videos that are available upon request.

Tel/Fax: (345) 94-SCUBA
Cell: (345) 916-2490
Web: www.divenstuff.com
E-mail: divenstuff@cayman.org

PETER MILBURN'S DIVE CAYMAN LTD.

With over 30 years of diving experience in Grand Cayman, Peter Milburn is one of the pioneers of Caymanian diving. He learned long ago that his preference is to get to know and serve his clients on an individual basis. So rather than "going big," he decided to personally share his laid back Grand Cayman diving experience. Your job is simply to dive and enjoy!

TEXT BY
MARTY SNYDERMAN

more details.

Tel: (345) 945-5770
Cell: (345) 916-0814
Web: petermilburndivecayman.com
E-mail: pmilburn@candw.ky

OFF THE WALL DIVERS

Tired of the crowds? Want to dive in peace with personalized service? Danny and Off The Wall Divers are for you. Off The Wall Divers specializes in custom dive trips for groups of 2 to 10 divers of any and all experience levels. Their morning boats often depart the dock earlier than those of larger operations, giving divers the best opportunity to take advantage of the conditions of the day. And, extended dive times are happily accommodated.

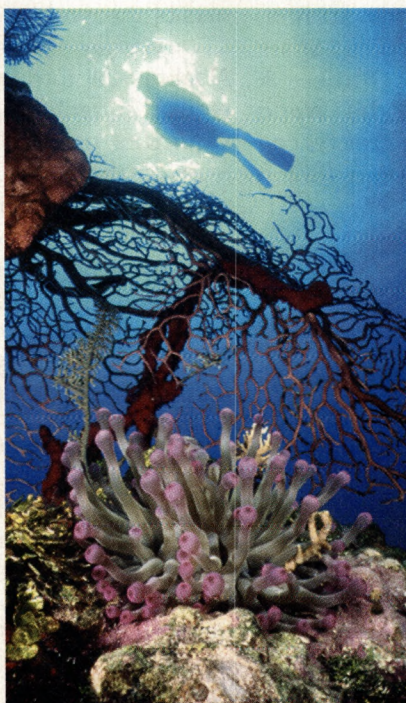
Tel/Fax: (345) 945-7525
Cell: (345) 916-0303
Web: www.otwdivers.com
E-mail: fish@candw.ky

RED BARON DIVERS

Nick and his staff at Red Baron Divers promise to keep your dive adventures "private and small," as they, too, provide personalized service at a pace that accommodates your desires and schedule. Taking a maximum of eight divers, the crew eliminates all of the gear schlepping on your part. Red Baron Divers offers two smooth riding, 27-foot custom boats, whose fast speeds and comfortable rides make out-of-the-way sites easily accessible. Daily transports are made with a new air-conditioned mini-bus.

Tel: (345) 949-9116
Cell: (345) 916-1293
Web: www.redbarondivers.com
E-mail: info@redbarondivers.com

Next time you visit Grand Cayman, consider booking with these smaller operators. All can take you to the best walls, the liveliest reefs, the wrecks, less commonly dived sites, or to the most popular sites such as Stingray City. Where you dive and when is your call. All these operators ask is the opportunity to allow their service to make your vacation the dive trip of a lifetime.



THE AVID DIVER SPENDS HOLIDAYS SEEKING perfectly pristine, unspoiled and undiscovered diving. Well, seek no more. It's time to visit the dive paradise of the Seychelles aboard the *Indian Ocean Explorer*, the Indian Ocean's premier dive boat. This converted oceanographic research ship is 70 feet long and fully equipped to provide the ultimate dive holiday for up to 16 passengers. It takes divers to places once considered inaccessible.

Explore the must-be-dived-to-be-believed Seychelles Outer Islands on expeditions to magical places whose names roll off the tongue: Alphonse, the Amirantes, Astove and Aldabra. Visited by fewer than 200 divers a year, Aldabra is a World Heritage Site. Also experience the Seychelles Inner



well as explain some of the on-going naturalist research. There's a profusion of fish; some 2,000 green turtles breed here annually; and dolphins and whales can be spotted offshore.

The atoll ring consists of four major islands separated by channels; the islands display two distinct terraces, at 12 and 24 feet above sea level. The fossilized limestone has been eroded by the weather into

Dive the Undiscovered Seychelles

Find Paradise Aboard the *Indian Ocean Explorer*

Islands, where the specialty is Whale Shark encounters, the renowned Ennerdale Wreck and the majestic Brissare rocks. There's diving to last a lifetime here.

Itineraries range from 3 to 15 days, with some expeditions designed to offer Indian Ocean thrills to non-diving companions. These include Whale Shark Expeditions, the Chelonian Program (Turtles & Tortoises), Amirantes, Madagascar and the World Heritage Site of Aldabra. The *Indian Ocean Explorer* can also be custom chartered for diving, snorkeling, fishing and birding.

Aldabra—One of the World's Greatest Treasures

Aldabra is a Mecca for naturalists and adventurous divers and the *Explorer* is the only boat with regularly scheduled Aldabra trips.

Access to Aldabra was previously only accessible by chartered yacht or "Society Expedition" ships on three or four

razor sharp rocks that have protected the wildlife for millennia. In the lagoon the flow of the tides has sculpted small limestone islands into strange mushroom-shaped pinnacles. It is one of the last unexplored corners of the world.

Twice a day, the flood tide inundates the center of the Aldabra atoll through its four channels, creating strong regular currents. Divers ride these currents alongside swarms of pelagics, turtles, rays and sharks looking to feast on the abundant life found in the atoll's interior waters. This adrenaline pumping experience ends serenely in calm waters when divers are picked-up by the *Explorer's* dinghy. It's an experience that divers request over and over again.

Come to the Seychelles, and let the *Indian Ocean Explorer* introduce you to a fascinating and (almost) undiscovered paradise.

The *Indian Ocean Explorer* is represented in the U.S. by New Adventures (888) 437-8456. New Adventures can arrange your total Seychelles dive package including international air, hotel stays before and after your dive, sailing and fascinating add-on excursions such as African safaris, the luxurious island of Mauritius and private touring of Egypt and Jordan. For more information, visit:

www.IOExplorer.com or www.NewAdventures.com or www.Sey.net.



YOU LEARNED EARLY-ON IN SCUBA CLASS THAT A WETSUIT is called a "wetsuit" because it traps a thin layer of water between the suit material and your skin. Your skin heats up this layer of water and the wetsuit material insulates it (and you) from the surrounding cold water. The system works well if the words "traps" and "insulates" adequately describe the process. However, if the cold ocean is hosing in and out of your suit like the Humboldt Current, and your suit material offers the warmth of liquid nitrogen, then you've got a problem.

The Holy Grail of wetsuit design has always been to reduce water movement through the

thicknesses: 3, 5 and 7 mm. To further increase comfort and freedom of movement, the 5 and 7 mm suits incorporate strategically located panels of thinner material (3 and 5 mm, respectively). Beyond this, all suits feature "bent" knees and elbows. The knees and shins are protected by a thick polyurethane coating.

Harvey's suits have always deserved their reputation for quality and advanced features—and the Titanium Toasters carry on the family tradition.

For more information visit www.harveys-divesuits.com.

More Warmth Per Millimeter Harvey's Titanium Semi-dry Suits

suit and increase the insulation—without sacrificing comfort. You see, you can't just make 'em tight and thick, because a diver's gotta move. And, beyond that, increasing thickness also increases buoyancy.

Harvey's Dive Suits have always pushed the envelope toward more warmth for the width, and their Titanium Toasters have moved the comfort bar up several big notches.

The Toasters get their first name from Harvey's advanced Titanium Thermo-Shield Neoprene. This incorporates a layer of titanium foil on both sides of top-quality foam neoprene. While the neoprene provides excellent insulation against *conducted* heat, the titanium has the added benefit of reflecting *radiated* body heat back toward the diver. The heat retention allows the diver to wear thinner suits for any given water temperature. Yet, even at 7 millimeters (mm), the suit material allows remarkable flexibility.

As important as the suit material itself, is the fit. And, with the Titanium Toasters, the fit is fine. They feature Harvey's Kobalt Pro-Flex seal system, which reduces water transfer at the torso, wrists, collar and ankles to a bare minimum, creating a suit that is, effectively, semi-dry.

Designed for use in cold (and colder) water, the Titanium Toasters combine a farmer john (both shoulders are adjustable) with a step-in jacket for maximum warmth. The suits are available in three



UNDERREVIEW

THE ATMOS ai IS AERIS' LATEST OFFERING IN A fine new line of diving computers. This new air-integrated computer complements the ATMOS 1 and 2 introduced late last year.

The ATMOS ai has all of the features you would expect from an advanced dive

tioned to allow you to navigate, while always maintaining sight of the computer's display.

Although the console may be small, you do not sacrifice the ability to see and understand the information presented. The ATMOS ai is styled with large, easy-to-read digits. AERIS has achieved the optimum in console size and readability. The display is loaded with clearly-identifiable information for the diver.

AERIS' use of color-coded bar graphs makes using this console even easier. Proper monitoring of these graphs allows you to select the

Atmos ai Consoles

Compact Versatility in a Top-Quality Computer

computer...and then some. Key features include: Nitrox-compatibility, PC downloadable, user-replaceable batteries, backlighting, safety-stop timer and easy-to-read graphs.

The first thing you will notice about the ATMOS ai is the compact size of the console. It is small, lightweight and ergonomically designed. Like previous AERIS models, you can read all of your information at a glance. The optional compass is ideally posi-

personal degree of conservatism you wish to build into each and every dive, putting you in control of your margin of safety.

To further enhance your safety, the ATMOS ai has a red flashing LED that illuminates to get your attention when you are in a situation you may need to manage. This LED flashes in conjunction with your audible alarms, of which there are many.

Maximum depth, nitrogen & oxygen loading, low-air, turn-gas, dive time remaining, ascent rate—to name but a few. AERIS has even incorporated a new countdown timer that automatically activates near the end of your dive, reminding you of doing your three-minute safety-stop.

The ATMOS ai is manually activated, or turns on automatically when you enter the water. The latter is a nice feature for when you forget to turn your computer on, or there is a significant delay between preparing for a dive and getting in the water.

Multiple user settings allow you to personalize the computer to your style of diving and the margins of safety you wish to build into your dives. The optional quick-disconnect is a must for today's travelling diver. You can easily, and without tools, remove your computer from your air delivery system.

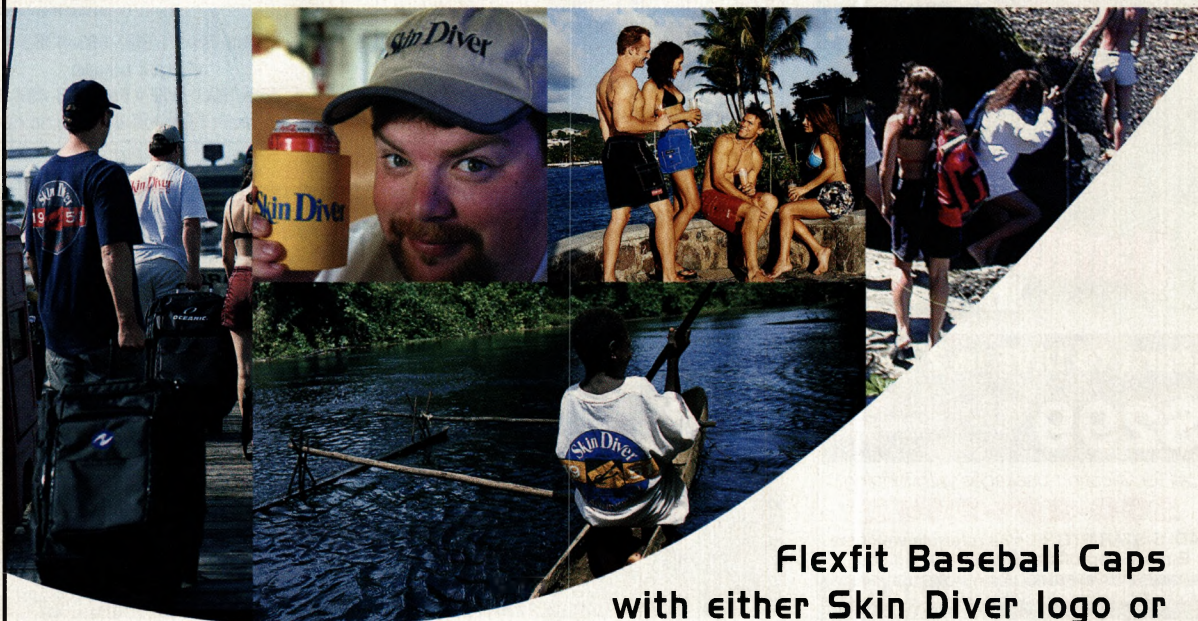
The ATMOS ai is an impressive combination of features and style, raising the industry standard to a new benchmark.

For more information please visit your nearest AERIS dealer or www.diveaeris.com.



Skin Diver *gear*

sport the HOTTEST dive apparel



Flexfit Baseball Caps
with either Skin Diver logo or
our exclusive 50th Anniversary logo

Long/short sleeve Team Skin Diver Shirts

Skin Diver Backpack

The ultimate in Board Shorts for him/her

Available in various colors



© SD/AD 0210

877.718.3429

www.skindivergear.com

CALL NOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

TRAVEL GUIDE

AMERICAN PRO DIVING CENTER
Crystal River, FL



Manatee Tours YEAR-ROUND

Learn to DIVE in 2 days!

\$299⁹⁹ Includes lodging & dive certification, pp/dbl. occ.

Call for vacation packages with lodging.
800-291-DIVE
PADI 5-STAR STORE • All referrals welcome
E-mail: ampro@americanprodiving.com
www.americanprodiving.com

MANTA RAY BAY HOTEL & YAP DIVERS



MORE THAN JUST MANTAS

Sharks, Corals, Mandarin Fish, Walls, Macro and More!
3, 4, 7 & 10 day packages starting at \$453.00 pp/do
800-DIVE YAP (800-348-3927)
sdm@mantaray.com • www.mantaray.com

Yap, Micronesia



www.bilikiki.com

Bilikiki
Cruises Ltd.
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Toll-Free 1-800-663-5363
(in USA & Canada)
Tel. 705-363-2049 • Fax 253-484-7102
e-mail: bilikiki@horizon.bc.ca

Young Island



Hidden within most of us is the fantasy of someday discovering an uncharted island, surrounded by clear waters, unspoiled by man and his industries. An island where fruits, flowers, birds and fish abound... all in a climate of absolute perfection.

Reservations • 1-800-223-1108
E-mail: reservations@youngisland.com
www.youngisland.com



BUDDY DIVE RESORT BONAIRE
Free unlimited boat diving with Dive & Dive packages during September/October 2002.
Packages starting \$685 p.p. include: 7 nights apartment, vehicle, 3 breakfast, transfers, taxes, 6 days w/ airfills + 6 boat dives, with free upgrade to unlimited boatdiving.

ULTIMATE DIVE TRAVEL (800) 737-3483
E-mail: office@ultimatedivettravel.com

Skin Diver travel guide

Travel Guide is a quick and easy way to maximize your advertising dollar. With this special section exclusively featuring resorts and live-aboards, dive travelers have a clear and convenient guide to their vacation needs.

For a high-impact, high-value opportunity to reach lucrative travel buyers, contact

323.782.2760

to advertise in Skin Diver's Travel Guide now.



OVERSEAS DIVERS' DIRECTORY

See Overseas Divers' Directory at www.skin-diver.com

Rates: \$760 for 6 months or \$1,140 for 1 year with activated link. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY COPY via bank draft or international money in U.S. funds. Visa or Mastercard accepted.

Contact: Vivian Williams, E-mail: vivian.williams@skindivermag.com or call: (323) 782-2778 or fax: (323) 782-2556.

ANTIGUA

DOCKYARD DIVERS (268) 460-1178; FAX: (268) 460-1179
Antigua's beautiful south coast. Yachting ctr, sensational sites within 1 mile. Sales. Rental. Accom. Pkgs. PADI certs. Nelson's Dockyard, Box 184, St. John's Antigua. www.dockyard-divers.com

AUSTRALIA

SERICA, FAR NORTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF (617) 40938900
Dive remotest reefs on 74' luxury liveaboard - Serica. 6 guests. 7 nts min. Remarkable big fish and macro life. www.serica-diveaustralia.com info@bomatu.com

BAHAMAS

DIVE ABACO! BAHAMAS. A MARSH HARBOUR TRADITION
Since 1978. Scuba & snorkel protected preserves. Dive/hotel packages. Uncrowded diving, personalized service, out-island tranquility. dive@divabaco.com www.divabaco.com 800-247-5338

BARBADOS

THE DIVE SHOP - BARBADOS (246) 426-9947/(888) 898-3483
Barbados oldest & largest dive operator. PADI NAUI & ACUC courses. Reef/wreck dive pkgs w/ accomod. Pebbles Beach & Cavana Lane hardive@caribnet.net www.divebds.com

BELIZE

BANYAN BAY VILLAS*BOTTOM TIME DIVE (800) 382-7776
Accommodations for Discriminating Divers. Ambergris Caye Discount packages-Air, Hotel, Diving, Tours, Groups bzagent@bztravelservices.com www.bztravelservices.com

BAREFOOT DIVING AND WATERSPORTS 011 501 226 2119

Overnight trips to the beautiful outer atolls including the great Blue Hole. Local diving/Mayan ruins/jungle tours/U/W cameras. Quality and service is our specialty www.barefootwatersports.net

HAMANASI DIVE & ADVENTURE RESORT www.hamanasi.com
Casually elegant seaside resort. Dive three atolls and the Blue Hole. Explore Mayan ruins, Jaguar Preserve & more. info@hamanasi.com Toll free (877) 552-3483

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, NITROX EXPERTS (800) 678-6871
Overwater cottages, arrive/depart any day, excellent food, accommodations, diving & instruction. OWD/AOWD/Nitrox cert. Bze Ph. (501) 2204444; US Fax: (941) 488-3953; www.gooddiving.com

BONAIRE

BON BINI DIVER'S BONAIRE (599) 717-54254
Full-service dive store without the crowds! Packages available for every budget! info@boninidivers.com www.boninidivers.com

GREAT ADVENTURES AT HARBOUR VILLAGE (800) 700-6373
World class diving at 5-star beach resort. Now with photo & video shop! Exclusive. Friendly. Affordable. (305) 567-9509 reservations@harbourvillage.com www.habourvillage.com

HAPPY HOLIDAY HOMES (599) 717-8405; FAX: (599) 717-8605
Clean, quiet, 1-3 BR bung. A/C, cable TV, full kitchen, pvt patio & garden, hot shower, best value, car & dive pkgs avail. Min. from beach & diving. www.happyholidayhomes.com

SAND DOLLAR CONDOS/OWNER RENTALS (203) 323-1000
Luxury oceanfront units at attractive rates. Expert trip planning & advice from divers who know the island best.info@gotobonaire.com www.gotobonaire.com

SAND DOLLAR CONDOMINIUM RESORT/DIVE & PHOTO
Bonaire's most personalized dive rsrt & more. Guided snrk, kayaking, nature tour & mtn biking discovery. (599) 717-5252 info@discoverbonaire.com www.discoverbonaire.com

TOUCH THE SEA WITH DEE SCARR (599) 717-8529
Unique diving experiences: photos, marine creatures, much more. (Closed July thru October). Reservations recommended Box 369, Bonaire, N. A.; www.touchthesea.com.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

CUAN LAW (LIVE-ABOARD) (800) 648-3393
Relaxed diving for 1 to 20. Lots of toys and activities for non-divers, too. Family rates. Great food and crew on a fast, stable Trimaran. (284) 494-2490 www.bvidiving.com

CAYMAN ISLANDS

ATLANTIS SUBMARINE ADVENTURES (800) 887-8571
Voyage 1000 ft down the Cayman Wall on-board Deep Explorer Submarines. Exclusive with only 2 passengers & a pilot. atlantis@cwandw.ky (345) 949-7700 www.GoAtlantis.com/cayman

CARIB SANDS BEACH RESORT-REEF DIVERS (345) 948-1121
All new luxury condominium dive resort. Located on a beautiful sandy beach just minutes from world-class diving. Email: caribsan@cwandw.ky www.cariblands.com

CATHY CHURCH'S U/W PHOTO CENTRE (345) 949-7415
Enjoy classes with Cathy-the finest U/W photo instructor in the world-all levels. LOWEST rates on camera rentals and sales. Visit our gallery. www.cathychurch.com

CAYMAN BRAC BEACHFRONT HOME (203) 866-1928
Secluded 2 bdrm/2 bath prvt home \$675/wk. Snkl/dive off your own beach, rock climbing, hiking or just relax & enjoy. Brac Aquatics Dive Pkg. www.diveguide.com/p0151.htm

CAYMAN DIVING SCHOOL (345) 949-4729
Visit our new "PADI 5 star instructor development center" location. Lots of great diving from recreational to technical-we've got it all! www.caymandivingschool.com

COBALT COAST RESORT & SUITES (866) 622-9626
Dive spectacular North Wall and shoredives at 2 Divetech locations. Modern new resort offers dive packages with and without meals. www.cobaltcoast.com www.divetech.com

DIVE 'N STUFF 1 (345) 945CUBA
Cayman's premiere small dive operator. Flexible departure times, small groups, experience divemasters, very very low rates. divenstuff@cayman.org divenstuff.com

DIVERSDOWN www.diversdown.net FAX/PH (345) 945-1611
Grand Caymans premiere dive operator at Cayman Inn Resorts-Sleep Inn. Small groups 8 divers max per boat. Value-priced dive pkgs room & free American Breakfast.

DIVETECH @ COBALT COAST RESORT 1 (866) 622-9626
Experience service, luxury & adventure. Packages include 2 great shore diving locations, unlimited shore diving, daily boat trips - with or without meal plans. The adventure awaits you...

DON FOSTER'S DIVE CAYMAN (800) 833-4837
Located in Georgetown Harbor & Comfort Suites. Perfect for instruction, daily boat dive, shore dive & private dock for Stingray City. dffd@cwandw.ky www.donfosters.com

EDEN ROCK DIVING CENTER (345) 949-7243
Cayman's best shore diving w/ great boat diving pkgs and accom. Great location to learn to dive for beginners, referrals, and adv. divers. www.edenrockdive.com e-mail: edenrock@cwandw.ky

LITTLE CAYMAN DIVER II & BRAC AQUATICS LTD.
Unbeatable prices at condos, villas, hotels & live-aboard diving by the pioneering developer in the Caymans, 22 yrs experience guarantees only the best at the best prices possible! (800) 544-2722

RED SAIL SPORTS GRAND CAYMAN (877) RED-SAIL
Ask about our incredible H2GO dive package. Daily 2 & 1 dives, night dives. Courses available. Five complete dive & watersport centers. info@redsail.com www.redsail.com

SEAVIEW HOTEL & DIVE RESORT (800) 262-7686

On the quiet side of George Town, Grand Cayman, our 15 room dedicated dive resort offers great and unlimited shore diving, boat dive trips for only \$99/day! www.seaviewdivers.com seadive@cwandw.ky

SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB-LITTLE CAYMAN (800) 899-2582
Max of 12 divers per boat, 11 beachfront cottages w/ A/C, 800' of pristine white sand beach w/ private dock SCC is the best way to relax and dive Little Cayman's famous wall

SUNSET HOUSE/SUNSET DIVERS (877) 854-32274
PADI gold palm resort. GC number one shore dive, diving courses at all levels, dive shop, restaurant, bar, photo centre on property. www.sunsethouse.com/sd.htm skindiver@sunsethouse.com

THE CLUB IN LITTLE CAYMAN (800) 327-3835
This is your opportunity to own ultra luxury in a diver's paradise. Now developing a limited number of new unique villas with unmatched luxury in Little Cayman.

TORTUGA DIVERS (800) 447-0309
Grand Cayman's famous East end diving at a luxury full-service resort. Complete dive and watersports on site. tortuga@cwandw.ky www.morritt.com

FIJI ISLANDS

BEQA DIVERS WWW.BEQADIVERS.COM DIVEFIJI@IS.COM.FJ
Leisurely dive trips to best dive sites in Beqa Lagoon. Budget firstclass packages soft coral splendor tunnels wreck gorgonia sharks. Fax 679361047 personal service

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU FIJI ISLANDS RESORT
The perfect blend of comfort and services of a world-class resort, yet has the warmth & intimacy of a small, private retreat. (800) 246-3454; Fax: (415) 788-0150 www.jmcfir@aol.com

DIVE KADAVU BEACH RESORT (800) 525-3833
FIJI'S BEST VALUE! Great diving, comfortable accommodations, & a beautiful beach. Plus, discount airfares from the U.S. Call Landfall Dive & Adventure Travel. www.landfallproductions.com
NAI'A CRUISES FIJI (800) 903-0272 (679) 450-382
Fiji's finest coral reefs & pelagic passages. Spacious & comfortable. Friendly crew. Owner-operated. Tonga humpback whale. Fax: (679) 450-566 explore@naia.com.fj www.naia.com.fj

GALAPAGOS

AQUATIC ENCOUNTERS - LIVE-ABOARD, REINA SILVIA
Hammerheads, dolphins, whale sharks from the ultimate dive boat. We dive Darwin & Wolf Islands every time!! Free video available. (800) 757-1365 Pin Code 1815 www.aquatic-encounters.com

GALAPAGOS SUB-AQUA (888) 317-6333
The first and best land based dive operation. Hotel/dive packages and live-aboards available. Adventure Diving—PADI, NAUI courses and referrals. (945) 489-7749

ULTIMATE DIVING & NATURALIST ADVENTURE! (800) 525-3833
Sharks, rays & unique land animals. Lammer Law, discount airfares, & Ecuador/Amazon tours. Call Landfall Dive & Adventure Travel. www.landfallproductions.com

HAWAII

ED ROBINSON'S DIVING ADVENTURES 1-800-635-1273
Maui's most diverse dive operation focusing on marine education & personalized service. Call 800# for FREE information package. Visit our website for FREE trial screensaver www.maui-scuba.com

KONA COAST DIVERS (800) KOA-DIVE
Professionalism since 1967. PADI 5* IDC/NAUI & SSI. PRO/TDI / nitrox, rebreathers. Full classroom, retail, rentals divekona@kona.net www.konacoastdivers.com

LAHAINA DIVERS, INC.

(800) 998-3483

Dive pristine molokini, cathedrals of Lanai, turtle reef. Daily charters. Nitrox, rebreathers. PADI 5 star. Handicap accessible. Discover scuba daily.

www.lahainadivers.com

MAUI DIVE SHOP (800) 542-3483 www.maudiveshop.com

Hawaii's largest dive center, 7 stores, free dive guide, daily boat dives, rentals, SSI & PADI training facility topside activities. diver@mauidiveshop.com

SCUBA MIKE MAUI

(808) 250-5494

Fun safe personalized scuba and kayak tours. 25 years experience.. Beginners our specialty. PADI certifications. Central oceanview. Vacation rentals..

www.scubamike.net

SEASPORT DIVERS

(800) 685-5889

Kauai's best—2 Boats, 2 Shops, Retail, Rental, Ni'ihau, Photography, Beachwear, Free Nitrox, PADI 5-star. seasport@pixi.com

www.kauaiscubadiving.com

WAIKIKI DIVING CENTER (808) 922-2121 FAX: 922-9595

Located right in Waikiki. Dive on our new \$100K boat PADI 5-star & NAUI OW courses 3 days OW referrals-2 days. Daily boat dives. 424 Nuhua St. Hon., HI 96815

www.waikikidiving.com

HONDURAS—BAY ISLANDS**BANANARAMA DIVE CENTER—WEST BAY BEACH, ROATAN**

Private cabanas, kitchenettes, in-room movies, kayaks, bikes, horseback, shore & boat diving marine reserve, Mayan & eco tours.

www.bananaramadive.com

LAS ROCAS RESORT & DIVE CENTER (800) 844-3785

Dive Roatan's Marine Park from the doorstep of your cabin! 7 nights, 2/3 dives daily, 1 night dive and more from \$349 p/p info@lasrocasresort.com

www.lasrocasresort.com/skinder

REEF HOUSE RESORT ROATAN

(800) 328-8897

Secluded, intimate. Southern dive & bone fishing sites. Meals, 2 boat & shore dive dly, competitive prices.

fax: (210) 733-7889

email reefdiving@aol.com

www.reefhousesort.com

ROATAN, OAK BAY RESORT

(504) 435-2337

7 nights, studio apartment with kitchenette, 12 boat dives, unlimited shore diving \$385pp

cuba@tropicohn.com

ROATAN CHARTER INC.—VACATION PROPERTIES

Coco View Resort, Utila Lodge. Diving and fishing available. Beach house rentals, Mayan ruins & more. P.O. Box 877, San Antonio, FL. 33576

(800) 282-8932

www.roatan.com

ROATAN'S DIVE & YACHT CLUB, (504) 455-5407

in front of the best dive sites on Roatan. 4-star Resort, 6 nights, 3 dives/meals daily, \$450p/p

www.roatanyachtclub.com

email mh@roatanyachtclub.com

TROPICAL BEACH RESORT DIVE CENTER (504) 435-2725

Finest Coral Reef & Wall Diving. Dive shop-rentals-comp. rates Beach front cabanas, restaurant & bar, exc. bone & permit fishing

rodjean@aol.com

www.bayislandtropicalbeachresort.com

INDONESIA**INDONESIA MOYO-KOMODO-ALOR AND BEYOND**

On M/V Baruna Adventurer-A luxury 100 foot live-aboard. Bali Dive&Drive Fax: 0062-361-753809

baruna@denpasar.wasantara.net.id

www.comcen.au/~baruna

DIVE ASIA PACIFIC LIVE-ABOARDS (800) 962-0395

World class M/Y Pelagian, 5 star service, professional crew. Explore Komodo/Rinca, the Banda Sea and Beyond.

diveasia@diveres.com

www.dive-asiapacific.com

KARARU DIVE VOYAGES www.kararu.com (800) 886-7321

Kararu Dive Voyages takes you to Komodo Alor Sulawesi. Join us in the center of marine biodiversity 115 ft luxury.

email: info@divediscovery.com

www.divediscovery.com

JAMAICA**JAMAQUA DIVE CENTRE**

(876) 973-4845

5-star PADI, dive packages & instruction, 3 dives daily, night dives, photo and video.

Fax: (876) 973-4875

webdevin@jamaqua.com

www.jamaqua.com

MALDIVES**M.Y. MANTHIRI MALDIVES**

(877) 357-0022

Lost: Sanity. Found: Paradise, luxury live-aboard, millions of fish, great vis. gourmet food, whale sharks. Unparalleled service!

www.manthiri.com

MEXICO**VALLARTA ADVENTURES**

01152 329 712 12 EXT. 3

PADI 5H, fast new boats, 1st class gear, small groups, multi dive discounts, good viz, abundant sea life. Fax: 01152 329 71252

info@vallarta-adventures.com

www.vallarta-adventures.com

MEXICO—BAJA**BAJA EXPEDITIONS**

(800) 843-6967; (858) 581-3311

La Paz based live-aboard and day diving/hotel packages. Whale watching, sea kayaking and multi-activity camping packages.

Fax: (858) 581-6542; travel@bajaex.com

www.bajaex.com

CABO ACUADEPORTES

(521) 143-0117

NAUI-PADI-SSI/Since 1984. 3 boat dive daily. Complete watersports centers at 2 exclusive beachfront locations.

play@cabowatersports.com

www.cabowatersports.com

RAMAJAMAADVENTURES.COM

(760) 346-3685

60' live-aboard with superior accommodations for 6. Custom dive, snorkel, kayak and eco tours in Baja.

ramajamaadventures@hotmail.com

SCUBAJA DIVING CENTER

(888) 285-1046

PADI, luxury boats, snorkeling, camping, kayaking best service.

(521) 122-7423

www.scubaja.com

MEXICO—COZUMEL**BLUE BUBBLE DIVERS COZUMEL**

(800) 878-8853

Blue Bubble, No Trouble! Dive with small groups, fast boats, personal attention, flexible schedules, 6 departure times daily, equip rental. Air, hotel, dive packages

www.bluebubble.com

COZUMEL - ISLAMAR VACATION VILLAS (011) 52-987-869-0504

1BR/1BA & 2BR/2BA-\$50-\$120/night. Full kitchens, maid, A/C TV/VCR, PH, pool/spa, lockers, 10 mins. walk to town/beachfront. Airfare disc

w/booking + dive pkg promos!!

www.cozumelinsider.com/islam

COZUMEL VILLAS EL CARACOL/VEC DIVERS (800) 291-2715

Mini-haciendas—1100 SF from \$400/wk. Full kitch, shower-rinse Rm. LR, DR, 1-3br. Maid, pool, gardens, palapa. AC, Res-Mgr. Custom dive services. Group rates US owner.

DIVE PARADISE—COZUMEL (011) 52-987-872-1007

The best there is! The best in personalized service. For a wealth of free info/reservations call (011) 52-987-2-1007 or write 602 Rafael Melgar, P.O. Box 222, Cozumel Q. Roo, Mexico 77600.

PLAZA LIZZETTE/COZUMEL

(800) 588-4827

Condos & homes from \$350/wk, 1-3 bdms, new, ocean view, English speaking mgr walk to bch/shop/restaurants. Dive & jeep rental pkgs.

www.cozumel-pliz.com

VACATION CONNECTION

(888) 512-8747

Dive Cozumel Palancar to Punta Sur on the island's fastest boat. FREE night dive! Personal service for discount air, hotel & dive pkgs. Vacation Connection 888-512-8747

sburton@airmail.net

PAPUA NEW GUINEA**AQUATICS ENCOUNTERS LIVE-ABOARD M/V FEBRINA**

Escorted and non-escorted trips. Up to 6 dives daily. Call US for information packages including free video

(800) 757-1365 Pin Code 1815

www.aquatic-encounters.com

BOMATU DIVING COMPANY

WWW.BOMATU.COM

Dive Papua New Guinea. Unique South Pacific dive expeditions for small numbers aboard our two luxury live-aboards TIATA & SERICA.PH +61 7 40 938 900

info@bomatu.com

PNG DIVING ADVENTURES

011 (675) 852-2766

Live aboard the luxurious Melanesian Discoverer. Cruises to Milne Bay, New Ireland & Madang. Stay at Madang Resort or the Malagan Lodge at Kavieng.

mrh@meltours.com

RED SEA**ADVENTURE DIVING WITH DIVING WORLD (800) 443-0799**

The Red Sea experts. 7-14 night expeditions to Brothers, Daedalus and Zabargad on first class vessels. E-6 processing and Nitrox available. 7 night itineraries from \$1295

SABA**SABA'S "ALL UNDER ONE ROOF" OFFER 011 599 41 62740**

Pro dive center - nice saba style hotel - bar - restaurant - pool - two dive boats - great packages available

www.sabadivers.com/sabadivers@unspoiledqueen.com

SABA-THE UNSPOILED QUEEN

(800) 883-SABA

Dive the Sea Saba Difference w/Saba's finest hotels: Cottage Club, Juliana's, Queen's Gardens, El Momo. Each unique w/pool and view. Two 38' boats; no crowds or compromise. www.seasaba.com

ST. LUCIA**ANSE CHASTANET RESORT (888) 465-8242 FX: (758) 459-7700**

Scenic & romantic. 49 room hideaway amidst marine reserves, 600 acre estate, 2 beaches, prof. scuba centre, spa, mtn biking centre & trails. ROMANCE, TRANQUILITY, ADVENTURE

www.ansechastanet.com

ST. MAARTEN**DIVE SAFARIS (599) 5429-001; FAX: (599) 5428-983**

Boat dives - Reefs & wrecks. First class gear and 3 boats. PADI courses, referrals, specialties, Discover Scuba.

www.diveguideint.com/divesafaris

www.thescubashop.net

OCEAN EXPLORERS DIVE CENTER (599) 545-252 & 544-357

PADI & NAUI 30 years experience, Reefs, Wrecks, Small Groups. Daily boat dives & Lessons. Simpson Bay Beach

divesm@megatropic.com

www.stmaartendiving.com

THAILAND**ANDAMAN SEA: "OCEAN ROVER" LIVEABOARD**

From the M/V FANTASEA team. Same crew, same program, brand new boat. Dive Thailand and Burma in style. (800) 443-0799

info@fantasea.net

www.ocean-rover.com

M/V ANDAMAN SEAFARER WWW.PIDCDIVERS.COM

4-10D cruise to Similan/Surin and/or Southern Islands PADI/NAUI Courses & Daydives. Fax: (667) 638-1219.

PIDC Divers 1/10 Soi Ao Chalang

Viset Road Phiket 83130

M/Y AQUA ONE: LUXURY LIVE-ABOARD: (888) 996-2782

Cruise in Thailand, Mergui Archipelago, Andaman Islands. 16 pax in 8 ensuite-cabins. E-6, NITROX, friendly crews.

E-mail: aquaone@bigplanet.com

www.dive-aquasports.com

DIVE ASIA

(667) 633-0598

Live-aboard cruises in Thailand & Burma to Similan/Richelieu/ Mergui/Burma Banks. Day trips, Padi courses & IDC

Fax: (667) 628-4033

info@diveasia.com

www.diveasia.com

SOUTH EAST ASIA DIVERS (667) 628-1299

Sail & dive Similan/Surin Islands or southern Hin Daeng 4-7 days or 13 day Whale Shark safari on schooner Seraph

Fax: (667) 628-1298

skin@phuketdive.net

www.phuketdive.net

TURKS & CAICOS**S/V TAO LIVE-ABOARD STABLE 56' TRI (800) 326-4831**

Dive Caicos remote walls with TAO's PADI pros Sail-Sun-Scuba- Deserted Beaches. Great Food-Good Fun.

Fax: (649) 941-5510

info@sailtao.com

www.sailtao.com

VACATION CONNECTION

(888) 512-8747

Dive W. Caicos & French Cay on the newest & nicest dive yacht in Provo. Spotted rays & sharks! Personal service for discount air, hotel & dive pkgs.

Vacation Connection 1888-512-8747

sburton@airmail.net

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**DIVE EXPERIENCE (800) 235-9047; (340) 773-3307**

Dive St. Croix's best: walls, reefs, and our famous fish feed! PADI 5 H IDC center. hotel and dive pkgs.

divexp@viaccess.net

www.divexp.com

LOW KEY WATERSPORTS (800) 835-7718; (340) 693-8999

PADI 5-star IDC training facility beginners through experts. Certifications & PADI, NAUI, SSI, NASDS referrals welcome.

Dive pkgs available.

www.divelowkey.com

INTERNET DIRECTORY

Advertise in Skin Diver's Internet Directory and see your listing on the web: www.skin-diver.com (see Travel, Directories, Internet).
For more info call Vivian Williams at (323) 782-2778 or email vivian.williams@skindivermag.com • 12 issues: \$505

DIVE APPAREL

EAGLE RAY SPORTSWEAR

<http://www.eagleraysportswear.com>
e-mail: info@eagleraysportswear.com

SCUBA DO RAG

<http://www.scubadorag.com>
e-mail: cococheznaynay@vnet.net

DIVE EQUIPMENT

APOLLO SPORTS

<http://www.apollosportsusa.com>
e-mail: apolous@aol.com

DIVERS DISCOUNT

<http://www.diversdiscountflorida.com>
e-mail: salesandinfo@divers-discount.com

DIVERS DIRECT

<http://www.diversdirect.com>
e-mail: experts@diversdirect.com

DIVERS OUTLET

<http://www.diversoutlet.com>
e-mail: info@diversoutlet.com

DIVERS SUPPLY

<http://www.divers-supply.com>
e-mail: diving@divers-supply.com

LAUDICK'S JEWELRY

<http://www.activewatches.com>
e-mail: laudick@bright.net

PERFORMANCE DIVER

<http://www.performancediver.com>
e-mail: wvaperf@aol.com

RUBBER STAMPS FOR DIVERS

<http://www.stempelprofi.com>
e-mail: diver@stempelprofi.com

SEAQUEST

<http://www.sea-quest.com>

SEAVENGER

<http://www.seavenger.com>

SUBMERSIBLE SYSTEMS/SPARE AIR

<http://www.spareair.com>
e-mail: info@submersiblesystems.com

SUUNTO

<http://www.suuntofi.com>
e-mail: suuntodiving@suunto.fi

MISCELLANEOUS

ALOHA SHIRTS-BIKINIS-ETC.

<http://www.keywestcargo.net>
e-mail: kwcargo@bellsouth.net

RON GORDON DIVE WATCH REPAIRS & SALES

<http://www.gordonronwatches.webatonce.com>
e-mail: rorgord@aol.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

ARMATO'S

<http://www.armatos.com>
e-mail: armatos@ix.netcom.com

BERGER BROS.

<http://www.berger-bros.com>
e-mail: webmaster@berger-bros.com

CARLSON CUSTOM VIDEO

<http://www.customvideohousings.com>
e-mail: denny-carlson@juno.com

CATHY CHURCH U/W PHOTO CTR & GALLERIES

<http://www.cathychurch.com>
e-mail: cathy@cathychurch.com

CPD INDUSTRIES

<http://www.casesbypelican.com>
e-mail: sales@casesbypelican.com

FISHEYE DIVE, PHOTO & VIDEO

<http://www.fisheye.com>
e-mail: fisheye@candw.ky

NIKONOS REPAIR/MIKE MESGLESKI

<http://www.nikonosrepair.com>
e-mail: mmesgleski@nikonosrepair.com

SEALIFE

<http://www.pioneer-research.com/sealife.htm>

UNDERWATER PHOTO-TECH

<http://www.uwphoto.com>
e-mail: info@uwphoto.com

TECHNICAL

DIVE INC

<http://www.diveincny.com>
e-mail: diveincny@aol.com

TRADE SHOWS

OUR WORLD UNDERWATER

<http://www.ourworldunderwater.com>
e-mail: info@ourworldunderwater.com

TRAINING/ CERTIFICATION

DIVER'S UNLIMITED

<http://www.diversunlimited.com>
e-mail: dvrsunlm@bellsouth.net

DIVING CAREER INSTITUTE AT HALL'S

<http://www.hallsdiving.com>
e-mail: hallsdive@aol.com

FLORIDA DIVING INSTITUTE

<http://www.kamfdi.com>
e-mail: kamfdi@aol.com

PDIC

<http://www.pdic-intl.com>
e-mail: info@pdic.com

TRAVEL

AGGRESSOR FLEET LTD.

<http://www.aggressor.com>
e-mail: divboat@aol.com

ALMOND BEACH HIDEAWAYS

<http://www.almondbeach.com>
e-mail: info@almondbeach.com

AQUANAUTS GRENADA

<http://www.aquanautgrenada.com>
e-mail: aquanauts@caribsurf.com

AUSTRALIA, TOURISM QUEENSLAND

<http://www.DestinationQueensland.com>
e-mail: queensland@qttclax.com

BEACON HARBOR RESORT - CAYMAN BRAC

<http://www.beaconharbor.com>
e-mail: kkclark@ies.net

BILIKIKI CRUISES SOLOMON ISLANDS

<http://www.bilikiki.com>
e-mail: bilikiki@horizon.bc.ca

BIMINI UNDERSEA

<http://www.biminiundersea.com>
e-mail: info@biminiundersea.com

BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES

<http://www.blackbeard-cruises.com>
e-mail: sd@blackbeard-cruises.com

BOB SOTO'S DIVING

<http://www.bobsotosdiving.com.ky>
e-mail: bobsotos@candw.ky

BONNE TERRE MINE - BILLION GALLON LAKE

<http://www.2dive.com>
e-mail: westend@postnet.com

BON BINI DIVERS BONAIRE

<http://www.bonbinidivers.com>
e-mail: info@bonbinidivers.com

BRAC CARIBBEAN BEACH VILLAGE

<http://www.brac-caribbean.com>
e-mail: info@bracarib@candw.ky

BRAC REEF BEACH RESORT

<http://www.braclittle.com>
e-mail: bestdiving@aol.com

CARADONNA CARIBBEAN TOURS

<http://www.caradonna.com>
e-mail: sales@caradonna.com

CARIB SANDS

e-mail: caribsan@candw.ky

CAYMAN CONDOS

<http://www.cicondos.com>
e-mail: cayman@cicondos.com

CAYMAN DIVER LTD.

<http://www.caymandiver.ky>
e-mail: dfoster@candw.ky

CAYMAN DIVING LODGE - EAST END

<http://www.caymandivelodge.com>
e-mail: divelodge@aol.com

CHUB CAY UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

<http://www.chubcaydive.com>

CORAL ISLE DIVERS - BARBADOS

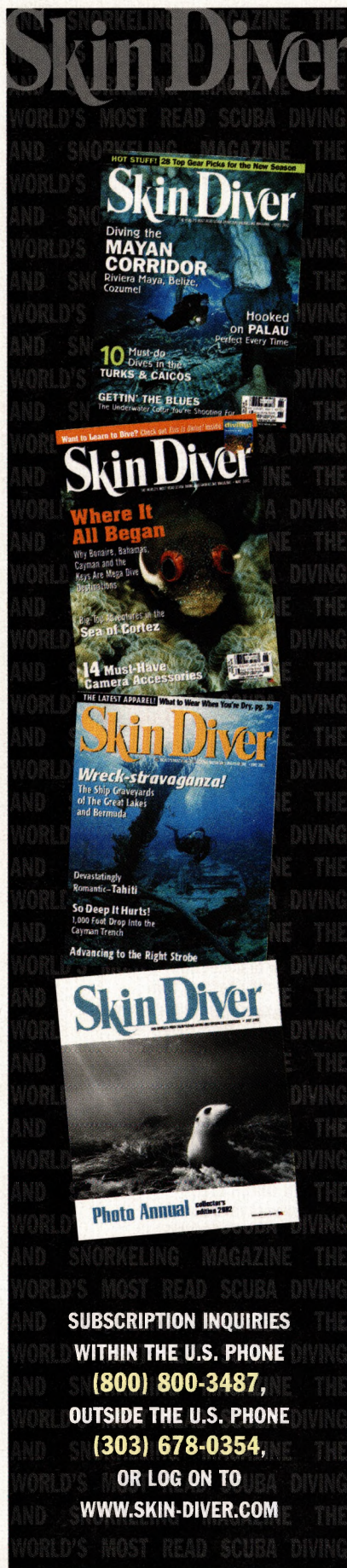
<http://www.caribnet.net/coral-isle>
e-mail: coralis@caribnet.net

CORAL COAST CARIBE BEACH HOTEL

<http://www.coralhotels.com>

DIVE ASIA PACIFIC LIVE-ABOARDS

<http://www.dive-asiapacific.com>
e-mail: diveasia@diveres.com



SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
WITHIN THE U.S. PHONE
(800) 800-3487,
OUTSIDE THE U.S. PHONE
(303) 678-0354,
OR LOG ON TO
WWW.SKIN-DIVER.COM

DIVE PARADISE

<http://www.diveparadise.com>
e-mail: info@diveparadise.com

DISCOVER BONAIRE

<http://www.discoverbonaire.com>
e-mail: info@discoverbonaire.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TOURISM

e-mail: www.dominicana.com.do

DON FOSTER'S DIVE CAYMAN

<http://www.donfosters.com>
e-mail: donfosters@cayman.org

EDEN ROCK DIVING CENTRE

e-mail: edenrock@candw.ky

FANTASEA DIVERS - OCEAN ROVER DIVING CRUISES

<http://www.fantasea.net>
e-mail: info@fantasea.net

FIJI ESCAPES TRAVEL

<http://www.fiji-islands.com/scuba.html>
e-mail: fiji@maui.net

GALAPAGOS SUB AQUA

http://www.galapagos_sub_aqua.com.ec
e-mail: gsubaqua@diveres.com

GARDEN ISLAND RESORT

<http://www.aquatrek.com>
e-mail: info@aquatrek.com

HIGHTIDE WATERSPORTS * BARBADOS

<http://www.gti.net/hightide>
e-mail: hightide@sunbeach.net

INDIES SUITES/INDIES DIVER

e-mail: indiessuites@world.att.net

ISLAND DREAMS

<http://www.islandream.com>
e-mail: info@islandream.com

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU FIJI ISLAND RESORT

<http://www.jmcfir.com>
e-mail: jmcfir@aol.com

LA JOLLA COVE SUITES

<http://www.lajollacove.com>
e-mail: jackman@lajollacove.com

LITTLE CAYMAN BEACH RESORT

<http://www.braclittle.com>
e-mail: bestdiving@aol.com

LOOKOUT LODGE DIVE RESORT

<http://www.lookoutlodge.com>
e-mail: mail@lookoutlodge.com

MAUI DIVE SHOP

<http://www.mauidiveshop.com>
e-mail: info@mauidiveshop.com

NASSAU SCUBA CENTRE

<http://www.twofin.com/twofin/nassau.htm>
e-mail: nealwatson@aol.com

NEKTON DIVING CRUISES

<http://www.nektoncruises.com>
e-mail: info@nektoncruises.com

PALAU PACIFIC RESORT

e-mail: knishida@palaunet.com

PETER HUGHES DIVING INC.

<http://www.peterhughes.com>
e-mail: dancer@peterhughes.com

PUNTA CANA BEACH

<http://www.puntacana.com>
e-mail: www.puntacana.com/scubadiving

RED SAIL SPORTS

<http://www.redsail.com>
e-mail: info@redsail.com

REEF HOUSE RESORT

<http://www.reefhouseresort.com>
e-mail: reefdiving@aol.com

RIDING ROCK INN

e-mail: ridingrock@aol.com

RUM POINT INN - BELIZE

e-mail: rupel@btl.net

SCUBA CLUB COZUMEL

<http://www.scubaclubcozumel.com>

SCUBA NETWORK

www.scubanetwork.com
e-mail: info@scubanetwork.com

SCUBA PASSPORT

<http://www.scubapassport.com>
e-mail: mail@scubapassport.com

SEA FEVER DIVING CRUISES

<http://www.seafever.com>
e-mail: seafever@seafever.com

SEALINK RESERVATIONS

<http://www.sealinkars.com>
e-mail: reservations@sealinkars.com

SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE - BAHAMAS

<http://www.smallhope.com>
e-mail: shinfo@smallhope.com

SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB - LITTLE CAYMAN

<http://www.southerncrossclub.com>
e-mail: relax@southerncrossclub.com

STELLA MARIS RESORT CLUB - BAHAMAS

<http://www.stellamarisresort.com>
e-mail: smrc@stellamarisresort.com

STUART COVE'S DIVE SOUTH OCEAN

<http://www.stuartcove.com>
e-mail: info@stuartcove.com

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

<http://www.scubasvg.com>
e-mail: scubasvg@aol.com

SUNSET HOUSE

<http://www.sunsethouse.com>
e-mail: sunset@candw.ky

TONGA WHALE ENCOUNTERS

<http://www.geocities.com/tongawhales>
e-mail: tongawhales@hotmail.com

TRIMARINE

<http://www.galapagosdiving.com>
e-mail: cuanlaw@caribsurf.com

UNEXSO

<http://www.unexo.com>

WALKER'S CAY UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

<http://www.nealwatson.com/walkers.htm>
e-mail: nealwatson@aol.com

YAP DIVERS & MANTA RAY BAY HOTEL

<http://www.mantaray.com>
e-mail: billacker@mantaray.com

TRAVEL WHOLESALERS

AQUA DREAMS TRAVEL

<http://www.aquadrems.com>
e-mail: info@aquadrems.com

CARIBBEAN ADVENTURES/WORLDDIVE ADVENTURES

<http://www.worlddive.com>
e-mail: info@worlddive.com

DIVE DISCOVERY

<http://www.divediscovery.com>
e-mail: info@divediscovery.com

LANDFALL DIVE & ADVENTURE TRAVEL

<http://www.landfallproductions.com>
e-mail: lnfall@aol.com

REEF & RAINFOREST WORLDWIDE ADV. TRAVEL

<http://www.reefrainforest.com>
e-mail: info@reefrainforest.com

DIVE WINDJAMMER



Warm water, great visibility, tropical marine life! Fewer than 120 passengers. Call for your free Dive Brochure. 6 & 13 day Caribbean cruises from \$700.

SIGN ME UP
1-800-327-2601



P.O. Box 190120, Dept.# 34, Miami Beach, FL 33119

FREE! Skin Diver Reader Information Service

We here at *Skin Diver* search the world to bring you the best in resorts, live-aboards, diving adventure and newly discovered hot spots each and every month. We seek out the latest in dive equipment and cutting edge training. We work hard at delivering the information you need to make your diving easier and more fun. Our Reader Service cards take it one step farther. We put the dive world at your fingertips. Get the information you want, send in a Reader Service card today!

OR

log on to **www.skin-diver.com** and go to

SKIN DIVER LINK

(Located on the top righthand of Skin Diver Online's homepage.)

Skin Diver's Massachusetts address is for reader information only.

reader service card

SEND LITERATURE TO: (Please print in ink)

NAME	
STREET	
CITY	
STATE	ZIP
E-Mail address	

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

For FREE literature: Circle the number you want, put a stamp on the card and mail it today!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210
211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220
221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230
231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250
251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260
261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270
271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290
291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300

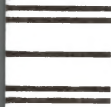
OCTOBER 2002 READER SERVICE CARD EXPIRES APRIL 30, 2003

SD-1002

Skin Diver

OCTOBER 2002

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Skin Diver

P.O. BOX 5467
Pittsfield, MA 01203-5467



ADVERTISERS INDEX

Reader Service No.	ADVERTISER	Page No.	Reader Service No.	ADVERTISER	Page No.	Reader Service No.	ADVERTISER	Page No.
ACCESSORIES/MISCELLANEOUS								
81	D.A.N. DIVER'S ALERT NETWORK.....	51	79	LAGUNA BEACH RESORT	73	89	EXPLORATION DESIGN	103
180	PADI	22	86	LAND SHARK DIVERS RESORT		133	MARINE CAMERA	104
135	SCUBARADIO	78		NASSAU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES....	36	64	NIMAR	102
118	ROLEX.....	Cover 4	94	MAUI DIVE SHOP	73	121	RESORT GRAPHIC	101
117	SKIN DIVER 2002 SIGNATURE SERIES POSTERS	100	114	MERMAID LIVEBOARDS	17	130	SILENT WORLD	104
166	VICENCIA & BUCKLEY	84	104	M/Y AQUA ONE	17	90	SOUTH NIKONOS SERVICE CENTER	104
			86	NEAL WATSON'S UNDERSEAS ADVENTURES	36-37		ULTRALIGHT CONTROL.....	104
			155	PETER HUGHES DIVING	6	163	UNDERWATER PHOTO TECH	104
			155	PETER HUGHES ESCAPES	85	SCUBA EQUIPMENT		
			103	PLAZA RESORT BONAIRE	16	91	AERIS.....	43
			102	REEF N RAINFOREST	17	91	AERIS UNDER REVIEW	92
			106	ROATAN CHARTERS.....	3	95	BODY GLOVE	7
			87	SABA TOURISM	30	84	DEEP OUTDOORS	13
			105	SAND DOLLAR	38	72	HARVEYS WETSUITS.....	15
			86	SCUBA BIMINI DIVE CENTER	36	72	HARVEYS WETSUITS UNDER REVIEW	91
				SKIN DIVER ONLINE	69	52	MAX AIR	18
			67	SOLMAR V.....	23	96	OCEANIC	19
			86	ST LUCIA UNDERSEA ADVENTURES ..	36	82	SEA VISION USA	74
				STUART COVE'S DIVE		TRAINING		
				SOUTH OCEAN.	11	97	COMMERCIAL DIVING ACADEMY	71
			92	ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	81	58	EASTERN ACADEMY OF	
			88	ULTIMATE DIVE TRAVEL	29		SCUBA EDUCATION	83
			160	WINDJAMMER	98a	PH	HALL'S CAREER INSTITUTE.....	70
			86	WALKER'S CAY UNDERSEA		78	OCEAN CORP	52
				ADVENTURES	36	99	PDIC	72
			86	XANADU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES ..	36	TRAVEL GUIDE		
			EVENTS					
			55	ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION.....	75	112	AMERICAN PRO DIVING CENTER	94
			65	H ₂ GO CAYMAN ISLANDS	34	57	BILIKIKI CRUISES LTD.....	94
			MARKETPLACE					
			80	AMPHIBIOUS	101	116	BUDDY DIVE RESORT BONAIRE	94
			123	ARMATO'S.....	103	141	MANTA RAY BAY/YAP DIVERS	94
			70	AQUAFLITE	103	194	YOUNG ISLAND RESORT	94
			136	BERGER BROS	101	U/W PHOTO/VIDEO		
			56	BEST PUBLISHING	103	100	AMPHIBICO UNDERWATER IMAGING	
			61	DESIGNATED DIVER.....	102		EQUIPMENT	31
			128	DIVE GODDESS	101	107	EQUINOX	70
			73	DIVE SILVER	102	109	JW FISHERS	78
			115	DOC PRO PLUGS.....	103	101	SEALIFE REEFMASTER CAMERAS.....	21

**SKIN
DIVER
LINK**

FREE Instantdive info

HOW TO USE SKIN DIVER LINK

At Skin Diver Online, you can get hot news and information from our advertisers instantly—and it's FREE. Skin Diver Link allows you to contact advertisers directly, then it sends back their information via e-mail. It's that easy!

To access the Skin Diver Link system, simply go to:

www.skin-diver.com

and click the Skin Diver Link button on the top right corner of the screen.

To receive instant info:

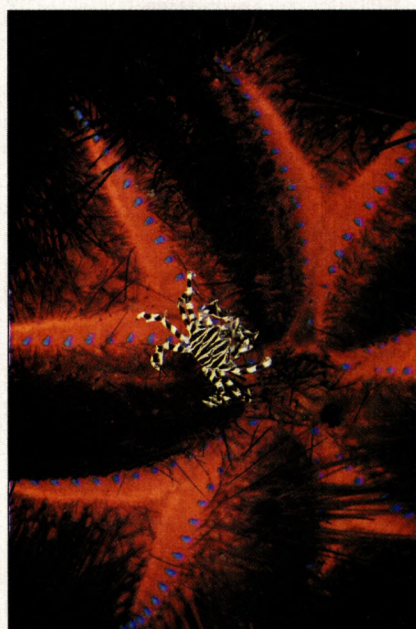
- 1) Enter your contact information.
- 2) Select an advertiser.
- 3) Click the SUBMIT INFO REQUEST button.

If you don't have web access, just call toll free (888) 353-3483, ask for Skin Diver Link and a friendly operator will assist you. Thanks!

A
D
I
N
D
E
X

Skin Diver 2002 Signature Series

OCTOBER



Constantinos Petrinos

SKIN DIVER 2002 SIGNATURE SERIES
Zebra Crab on Fire Lichen, Lembeh Strait, Indonesia

Released 10/15/02

Here's your chance to own an exclusive collection of limited edition, museum quality lithographs of 12 incredible images from *Skin Diver's* 2002 Photo Annual Collection. Buy each individually, or become a member of *Skin Diver's* Signature Series Club and receive one exceptional 24" x 36" lithograph each month for a year, plus get a FREE lithograph available only with full membership!

These images are printed to the highest standards and represent the pinnacle of underwater photographic art. They are the ultimate gift for divers everywhere. And remember, these are limited to 1,000 prints each and there will be no reprints of these one-of-a-kind images, so order now before supplies run out.

DECEMBER



David Hall

Black Border • Released 12/15/02

NOVEMBER



Amos Nachauim

Black Border • Released 11/15/02

JANUARY



Chris Newbert

White Border • Released 1/15/03

FEBRUARY



David Hall

Black Border • Released 2/15/03

MARCH



Bob Talbot

Black Border • Released 3/15/03

APRIL



Chris Newbert

White Border • Released 4/15/03

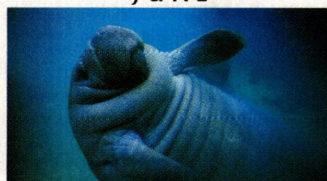
MAY



Pascal Kobeh

Black Border • Released 5/15/03

JUNE



Donald Tipton

Black Border • Released 6/15/03

JULY



David Doubilet

Black Border • Released 7/15/02

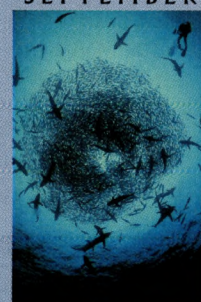
AUGUST



Roberta Rinaldi

White Border • Released 8/15/02

SEPTEMBER



Bob Cranston

Black Border • Released 9/15/02

FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP



Chris and Montique Fallows

White Border • Released 6/15/03

Individual Lithographs \$29.95

Signature Series Club \$239.95 (a \$149.40 savings for all 13 lithographs!)

Add \$6.95 shipping & handling per lithograph.

877.718.3429

www.skindivergear.com

Please allow 8 - 10 weeks from the release date for delivery of your lithographs.

AMPHIBIOUS OUTFITTERS



To view A/O's
full range of T's
and related scuba
products please visit

AOSHIRT.COM

or call

800-999-9126

E-mail a.o@att.net

dive goddess™

Dynamite Skins!



www.divegoddess.com

Dynamite Skins! • Uniquely HOT!

How to look **HOT** even though your equipment
is cumbersome and clunky, and your hair is a mess?
Simple...wear a **dive goddess** skin.

High-Quality, Visually Distinctive Active-wear for Serious
Divers Who Don't Take Themselves Too Seriously.

dive goddess™

Phone: **817.569.1817** • Fax: **817.738.0440**

Web Catalog: www.divegoddess.com • E-mail: sue@divegoddess.com

TREASURE JEWELRY

Own a
Piece of
History!



Anchor
Pendant
#A8064
\$69.95

Beautiful treasure jewelry cast from
the Pure Silver Bars of the
1622 Spanish Galleon

Nuestra Senora De Atocha!

Silver with 14KT Gold Overlay.

Shown actual size. Certificate of Authenticity
Included. Lifetime Satisfaction Guarantee.

ORDER TODAY

1-800-621-2440

Resort Graphics, Inc.

447 Carson Ave., Atlantic City NJ 08401

Phone 609-348-5826 Fax: 609-344-3052

e-mail: treasurejewelry@aol.com

VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC CREDIT CARDS

Add \$6.00 S&H. 14 Day (US) Delivery.

2-4 Day (US) Rush \$10.00

Regular Canadian Delivery \$10.00 - Other Countries \$45.00.
NJ Res Add 6% sales tax. Orders paid by check held 10 days.

CALL FOR FREE TREASURE CATALOG

BERGER BROS.

Underwater Cameras & Housings

Light & Motion
Tetra 5000



Custom housing for the
Nikon Coolpix 5000. Includes
the revolutionary ROC strobe
controller.

Light & Motion
Mako PC 120



Built to accommodate Sony's
MiniDV digital cameras, the
PC120 and PC115

Light & Motion
Titan



Designed for the Olympus
E-20 & E-10 digital cameras.
Includes the revolutionary
ROC strobe controller.

Sea & Sea
MX-5II



Point & Shoot ease. Shown
with the YS-20A Auto strobe

Sealife Reefmaster
DC 100 Digital Camera



Can be used on land and sea
Depth tested to 100 feet

Amphibico
Surveyor 707



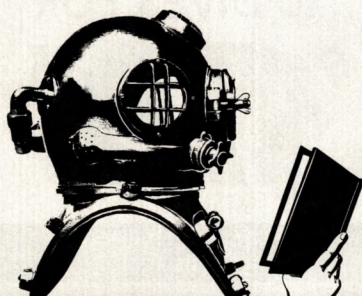
Built for the Sony
DSC-F707 digital camera

209 Broadway / Route 110 Amityville, Long Island
800-262-4160 • 631-264-4160 • www.berger-bros.com

 **Hours: Monday - Friday,**
8:30AM - 5PM (EST)
 **P.O. Box 1668,**
Lakeland, FL 33802

**DIVING BOOKS FROM
BEST PUBLISHING COMPANY**

**"Explore the world
without borders."**



For details and ordering
information on all
Best books, visit us online at
www.bestpub.com
or call 1.888.993.1055

**LARGEST PUBLISHER IN THE WORLD ON DIVING
AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE BOOKS**

www.skin-diver.com

COOL AND COLD WATER SUITS • TROPICAL SUITS • LITE TROPICALS • DIVING ACCESSORIES



- AQUAFLITE**
- ▼ Custom fitting & stock sizes
 - ▼ Quick delivery
 - ▼ Great prices
 - ▼ Satisfaction guaranteed

CALL **800.581.7916**



*The
wetsuits
you've
been
looking
for*

www.aquaflite.com

TITANIUM • HOODS AND HOODED VESTS •



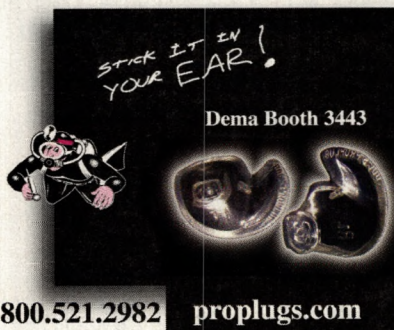
www.explorationdesign2.com

The Friendly Dive Jewelers...

E-mail: xds@earthlink.net
Phone or Fax: 215-661-9019

Scuba Diving
and
Ocean Life
Fine Jewelry

Preformed earplugs with vent-hole design
allows safe equalization while preventing
ear infections.



ARMATO'S
1-800-520-5012

**YOUR #1 VIDEO HOUSING
& DIGITAL STILL RESOURCE**

**AMPHIBICO
VH-2000**



FITS SONY DCRVX & SONY
DSRPD150 IN STOCK

**AMPHIBICO
NAVIGATOR 900**



ALLOWS THE LCD TO BE OPENED
UNDERWATER
HOUSING FOR THE TRV900

**SONY CONSUMER & PROFESSIONAL
CAMCORDERS IN STOCK.**

**GATES BAJA
HOUSING**



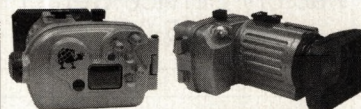
FOR SONY PC-110 OR THE
PC120 WORKS WITH FLIPOUT SCREEN

**LIGHT & MOTION
MAKO**



FOR THE SONY DCR PC110 OR DCR PC120
LOW PACKAGE PRICE WITH CAMERA

AMPHIBICO SURVEYOR 707



THE SURVEYOR HOUSES THE SONY DCSF 707
• 5 MILLION PIXELS • CARL ZEISS LENS • 128 MEG CAPACITY •
• 5X OPTICAL ZOOM •
CALL FOR LOW PACKAGE PRICE!

WE SHIP WORLDWIDE

**LIGHT & MOTION
TITAN**



FITS THE OLYMPUS E-10 & E-20
DIGITAL STILL CAMERA

**LIGHT & MOTION
TETRA**



FOR OLYMPUS DIGITAL STILL SERIES

**AMPHIBICO
DIVE BUDDY**



SPECIAL LOW
DIGITAL VIDEO
PACKAGE
DIVE BUDDY
WITH THE SONY
DCRTRV18

**GATES
GUPPY**



SPECIAL PACKAGE
PRICE WITH
SONY
DCRTRV
130

ARMATO'S
1-800-520-5012

67-16 Myrtle Ave.
Glendale, NY 11385
Ph: (718) 628-6800
closed Sat & Sun
<http://www.armatos.com>
E-mail: armatos@ix.netcom.com



FILM & DIGITAL



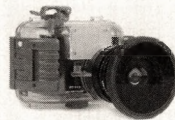
20mm f2.8 dome

Nexus
New **N80**
F100

NEW DIGITAL D100 N90/F4



HOT Macro
70-180 Macro
Zoom



Inon
Digital
Wide lens

Nexus www.UsaNexus.com For your Dealers

New Fuji digital housings F601 • S602 • F401

OLYMPUS • Digital

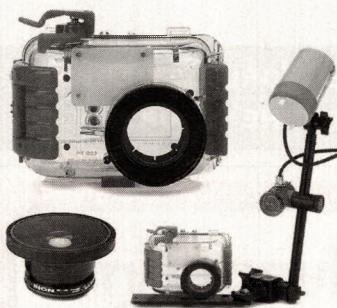
2020 • 2030 • 3030 • 3040 • 4040

Nikon 990 & 5000

Canon S300 • D30 & D60

Sony 707

Inon & Epoqe Lenses



Epoqe 100 wide lens

USA Nexus the Distributor
Factory Service Center
858-455-0873

Silent World

Dive Center, Inc.

DIVE KEY LARGO

10 DIVES FOR

\$179⁹⁵

Why pay more for dive gear?
Call us first!

Quiet • Uncrowded • Unique

Silent World caters to all levels of divers, running small, personalized charters. We even offer snorkeling and SNUBA in the Marine Sanctuary for your non-diving family and friends.

1-800-966-DIVE

P.O.B. 2363 • Key Largo • Florida • 33037

305-451-3252

Email: info@silentworldkeylargo.com

www.silentworldkeylargo.com



FOR ALL YOUR DIGITAL OR FILM NEEDS we have:
trays, arms and pivots to fit most housings & strobes

If you are at Dema, visit us at booth # 3151

The only arms with an o-ring in the ball for ease of use

Ph: (805)984-9104 to order or request a catalog

Visit our website: www.ulcs.com

FREE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CALL THE NIKONOS PROFESSIONAL!

This HOTLINE is just for you, staffed 10 AM-7 PM (Central Time) Monday thru Friday, to answer any Nikonos questions or to help you and your Nikonos out of an EMERGENCY. From anywhere in the world. Our assistance is always FREE...



Bob Warkentin's
SOUTHERN NIKONOS SERVICE CENTER, INC.
9459 Kempwood
Houston, Texas 77080
(713) 462-5436
Fax: (713) 462-5449
e-mail: nikonosrepair@aol.com

Equipment Servicing

- SOUTHERN NIKONOS services & repairs ALL Nikonos Products (old or new).
- Over 200,000 Nikonos parts in inventory!
- 2-3 work day turn-around!

"Human Mistake" Education

Read the Nikonos Workshop Articles WWW.SOUTHERN-NIKONOS.COM

Your Nikonos ain't just a land camera, it's DIVE EQUIPMENT! So remember, "When it's time to service your regulator, it's time to service your Nikonos!!"

SEA & SEA Sales Photo Trips Repairs Housing Packages Accessories

WE'VE GONE CARIBBEAN!
Underwater Photo-Tech Caribbean
599-9-562-9774 • Fax 599-9-747-2961
E-mail: uwphotocarib@attglobal.net

One Call Gives You COMPLETE SERVICE FOR ALL YOUR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC NEEDS!

UNDERWATER PHOTO-TECH
Underwater Photo-Tech USA
www.uwphoto.com
603-432-1997 • Fax 603-432-4702
E-mail: sales@uwphoto.com

To advertise in
Skin Diver's
MARKETPLACE,
please call
323-782-2778

Manager-Restaurant Hollywood location
restaurant looking to hire FT manager
Please fax resume (323)650-6744

Manufacturing Production Manager.
to 90K Great company in Vernon seeking a manager with 8-10 years in similar position great co. lots of opp for growth Must have supervised at least 5-18 people Call Teresa 310-45-2727 F 310-445-8727 e-mail mema-hon@cs4jcs.com

LOOKING FOR TRUE DIVE TALES:
Smart, funny, tall, wet and unbelievably available in 600 words or less. E-mail them to skin-diver.com or snail-mail to 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048 and if chosen, receive \$50, your name in print and everlasting fame and glory.

29 PEOPLE NEEDED
Work from home, P/T \$500-2K/mo. F/T \$2K-5K/mo. Training provided, no exp. nec. Call 1-800-881-5197
www.ticket2cash.com

PART TIME \$600/wk.
Promos in college towns. Casual atmosphere, very flexible. Paid training. Gabrielle (323) 353-6497 Jennifer (310) 420-8165 (818) 763-4665

P/T TELEMARKETING
The best of the best needed to sell subscriptions for Broadway L.A.'s 2001-2002 Musical Theatre season. \$10/hr. 800-222-2222

Each month *Skin Diver* looks back through its pages in search of those little nuggets of yesteryear—old equipment, trends of the time, new discoveries—that echo the times and may surprise or shock us. It's good to know your roots and how discoveries of old have helped shape diving of today.

1957



Egyptian War Traps Divers

IN THE 1950s, DAVID C. PARKS WAS WORKING FOR AN AMERICAN COMPANY IN Beirut, Lebanon. In *SD*'s January 1957 issue, he let loose about a "vacation" spent traveling across the desert with hopes of spearfishing in the Gulf of Aqaba. Driving a 1952 Jaguar Xk-120 with a trailer hooked behind, Parks and two buddies passed through numerous customs posts, under the scrutiny of officers who had never seen nor heard of spearfishing. Luckily, Parks had a copy of *National Geographic* on hand, and was able to use images from a Cousteau article to explain himself. After successfully reaching their target and scoring a few massive groupers, they were informed that Israel had attacked Egypt and all "non-essential Americans had been evacuated." The trio was forced to drive all the way back across the desert, encountering raging mobs and herds of camels. Afterwards, Parks decided to keep his adventures to waters closer to home. 🐟

Ghosts of the Past

IN SEPTEMBER 1975, BILL BARADA TRAILED DON SERBOUSEK, "ONE OF A HANDFUL of divers who pioneered underwater archaeology and paleontology in Florida," through swampy waters with two to three feet of viz. Archaeology was becoming very popular in the area, with finds that included fossilized remains of huge mammoths, saber-toothed tigers and other prehistoric animals that roamed the peninsula during the Ice Age. Men like Serbousek were known as "blackwater divers," and delight-

ed in poking around in the mud and grime of Florida's hundreds of spring- and swamp-fed rivers, stained with tannin from decaying trees. Even skeptical visiting paleontologists were converted after working with these divers, who ventured in water infested with poisonous snakes, bull alligators and perhaps most threatening of all, snapping turtles. Many predicted that answers for the mysterious demise of some of the prehistoric creatures might be found in these dark waters, and would "...very likely be discovered by a sport diver." 🐟



1975



1987



Making Money Diving for Urchins

JAN MLNARIK DUG UP A STORY IN OCTOBER 1987, ABOUT two mill workers who traded in their saws for a career harvesting sea urchins from the Straits of Juan de Fuca, which separates Canada and the state of Washington.

Amidst rumors of the mill closing, Les Newell spotted an ad in *Skin Diver* for the Divers Institute of Technology. Thus, he and a friend and fellow disgruntled co-worker, John Tiffany, decided to pursue diving careers. A dry spell

followed graduation, but upon hearing about a job picking sea urchins, Les and John formed a partnership. With borrowed money, they purchased a 26-foot boat, outfitted themselves with diving gear, a 300-foot umbilical hose and a communication system made from an eight-track tape deck and a Walkman radio. While one would man the boat, the other would walk along the ocean floor, scooping spiny urchins into a huge mesh bag. Typically, they'd work an eight-hour day, fill nine bags, weighing in at 330 pounds each. "We made \$13,000 in the first 38 days!" The destination for these spiny creatures was usually across the Pacific, where their roe is a delicacy in sushi bars. 🐟



Each month *Skin Diver* guest writers relive their unique moments under the sea, leaving us at the edge of our seats and aching to get back in the water.

IT'S HALLOWEEN NIGHT AND YOU'RE WEARING A mask. Okay. But what are you doing in a foreign country, entrusting your life to strangers, while diving in a cavern for the first time? Is it trick or treat? Is it time to fathom the depths of your being, or just keep sucking on that life-sustaining regulator?

You left the safety and security of Cancun, heading down the Yucatan Peninsula, into the jungle—the place with bugs and snakes. The turnoff is a narrow dirt road that someone cleared with a rusty knife. Very *Deliverance*—the kind of place that probably still haunts Ned Beatty. The road leads to a clearing. Four intrepid souls get out of the vehicle.

Alex and Danny are local dive instructors.

Joe's from someplace more exotic; he calls it Connecticut. And you, Mr. Cousteaustein, are from a small island named Manhattan, seeking a memorable career dive, number 100. A night dive in the jungle, navigating through gear-snagging caverns. You've done scarier things before, but can you think of any?

It's dusk and Alex gives a comprehensive one-minute briefing on cave diving in general, then the dive plan in specific. No visual aids. No demo video. You go in. You come out. Nobody gets hurt. Stouffer's instant cave diver mix.

You inch down the precipitous path to the edge of the *cenote* (a small, freshwater pond), which is connected to other *cenotes* by a series of underwater caverns—supposedly the world's largest underground network. *No problemo* for the subterranean master of NYC's subway system.

At the *cenote* edge you check your gear: Air on? Check. Computer on? Check. Light on? Check. Watch, gloves, fins? Check, check, check.

You do the Nestea plunge backwards into the jagged-rock-filled water and realize...mask not on. The mask that was rakishly perched on your head is now playing hide-and-seek on the *cenote* floor. Good start. Danny fishes it out, everybody flashes the OK sign and eight fins kick into the ominous black abyss that some people call *Ponderosa Cenote*.

You're disoriented at the start, frantically trying to juggle tasks like a Flying Karamazov Brother. Check air, clear ears, avoid rocks, establish buoyancy, clear mask, aim light, question your atheism at a time when belief in a power greater than Duracell could be helpful—and stay with the group because something tells you you're no longer in Kansas, Toto. Ahhh, the sweet taste of air as you greedily inhale hundreds of psi.

But then, the experience built up over those 99 previous dives kicks in and you find yourself in a wonderland of limestone formations, stalactites, stalagmites, archways, huge caverns and small tunnels. The joy of weightlessness and the thrill of discovery reminds you why you schlep your dive gear around the world for so few moments of pleasure. Hey, this

isn't scary. You can do this. You love doing this—and it's snowing underwater! Oh, wait, it's only a school of tiny translucent fish shimmering in your light. Such a large school makes you figure academic standards must be low enough that even your SAT score could get you in. And, magically, they part, and you're swimming amongst them as equals. More cool dive stuff. Can you walk with lions on a safari? Trek with grizzlies on a forest hike? Good thing it's a school of itty bitty cave fishies, not Tiger Sharks.

You follow along for maybe 250 feet, through passages at depths that max at 45 feet—then surface in an eerie spot, the Bat Cave. No sign of Bruce Wayne or Alfred. No bats either; Halloween's probably their busy season. The cave opening is shrouded in hanging

vines, swaying like writhing snakes sprouting from Medusa's head. All that's needed is a gut-tightening werewolf howl, or a guy in a hockey mask.

Alex decides the air supply is too questionable to continue without jettisoning the tank-sucking, mask-dropping, dive-impaired guy from New York. So, everybody out of the pool; time to kick back to *Ponderosa*.

Floating in the *cenote* at the end of the dive, you realize that, sometimes, wearing a mask can help you see the small role you play in nature's epic masterpiece. Then, you realize you've dropped your mask again.  —BY EDDIE GOLDSTEIN



A Yucatan Trick or Treat

Skin Diver (ISSN 0037-6345) Published Monthly Vol. 51 No. 10. Published by PRIMEDIA Specialty Group, Inc., 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048-5515. Periodicals postage paid at Los Angeles, CA and additional mailing offices. Subscription rates for 1 year (12 issues): U.S., APO, FPO and U.S. Possessions \$14.97. Canada add \$13.00 (U.S. funds) per year sales tax and GST-reg. #R72093125RT0001. Foreign orders add \$15.00 (U.S. funds). Florida residents add 6% sales tax. Subscription inquiries within the U.S. phone (800) 800-3487. Subscription inquiries outside the U.S. phone (303) 678-0354. CONTRIBUTIONS: Should be mailed to 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048-5515. They must be accompanied by return postage and we assume no responsibility for loss or damage thereto. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary in our sole discretion to meet the requirements of this publication. Upon publication, payment will be made at our current rate, which covers the author's and/or contributor's right, title and interest in and to the material mailed including but not limited to photos, drawings, charts, and designs, which shall be considered as text. The act of mailing a manuscript and/or material shall constitute an express warranty by the contributor that the material is original and in no way an infringement upon the rights of others. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Skin Diver*, P.O. Box 52595, Boulder, CO 80322-2595.

Read exciting charter reports on the Captain's Log at www.aggressor.com.

11 exotic destinations.
12 world-class dive yachts.
1 goal:
to make you say "wow!"



The Blue Hole

BELIZE AGGRESSOR III VACATIONS INCLUDE EVERYTHING—DIVING, ON-BOARD ACCOMMODATIONS, DELICIOUS MEALS, PAMPERED SERVICE AND FUN!

world, and the 110-foot *Belize Aggressor III* is the most comfortable and affordable way to explore the best Belize has to offer. Every inch of the *Belize Aggressor III*'s dive deck is designed for hassle-free diving. Tanks are filled in-place with either air or nitrox—no lugging tanks around. Each diver has an enclosed gear locker. The rinse shower has warm freshwater, not cold. And, with all dives from the mother ship, diving is unlimited.



AGGRESSOR OFFERS DIVERS THE FINEST AMENITIES LIKE REBREATHERS, NITROX, SCOOTERS AND ON-BOARD E-6 FILM PROCESSING.

"WOW!" the blue hole. half moon cave wall. quebrada. Belize offers divers some of the most magnificent wall diving in the



TOUR THE BELIZE AGGRESSOR ON OUR VIDEO PAGE AT [WWW.AGGRESSOR.COM](http://www.aggressor.com).

"WOW" is the one word that sums up an exciting *Belize Aggressor III* live-aboard adventure, and we think after a week of diving, you'll agree. When booking, ask our about our specials, including **free spots for groups and senior citizen discount.**



800-348-2628
www.aggressor.com

Aggressor Fleet is a franchise company.

aggressor, now you're diving!

THE WORLD OF AGGRESSOR FLEET

Aggressor vacations start at \$1,295 p.p. *call for details.



BAY ISLANDS



BELIZE



CAYMAN ISLANDS



COCO ISLAND



FIJI



GALAPAGOS



KONA, HAWAII



PALAU



TAHITI

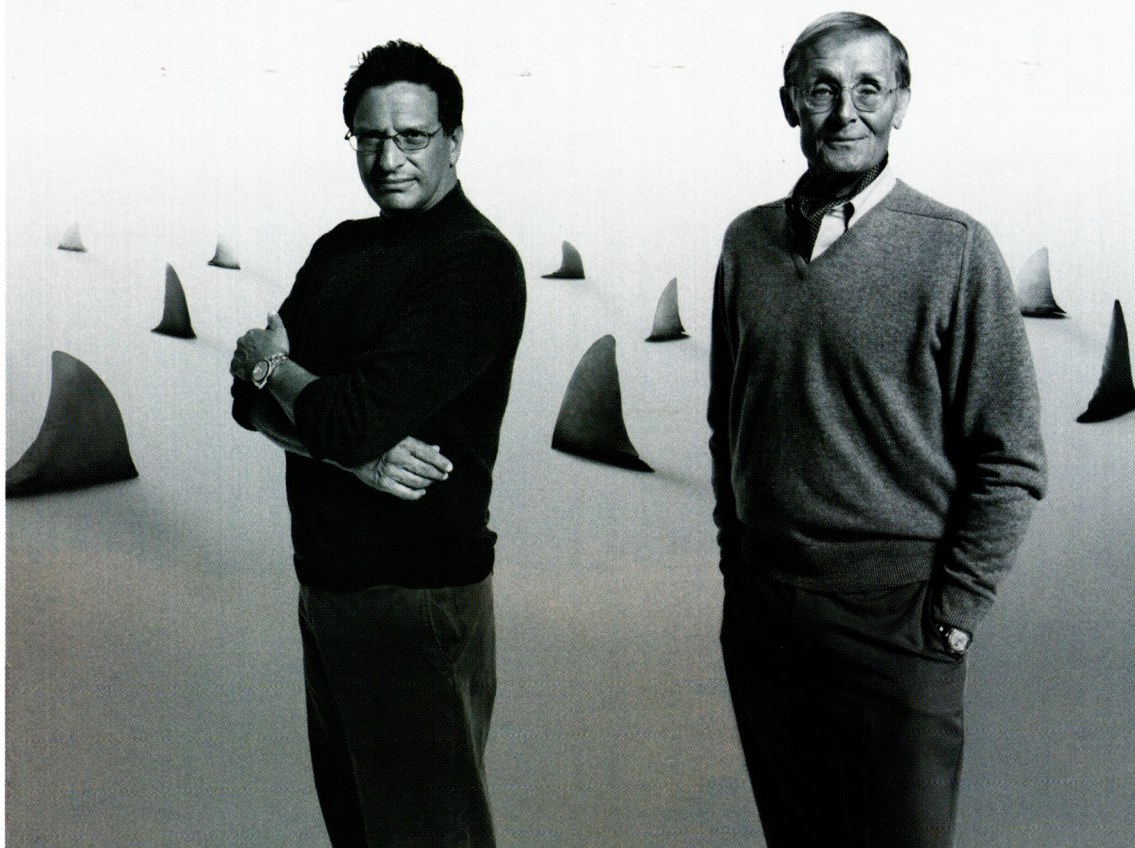


TRUK LAGOON



TURKS & CAICOS

The greatest fear they have
of sharks is their extinction.



Perpetual Spirit

David Doubilet, one of the world's greatest underwater photographers. Peter Benchley, internationally known novelist, explorer and journalist. They are dedicating their lives to defending the seas and making the public aware of the devastation being wrought on sharks all over the world. They know better than anyone how to share the emotion and amazement that the underwater world inspires. Rolex Oyster Perpetual.



ROLEX

Rolex Day-Date in 18kt gold and Rolex Yacht-Master in 18kt gold.
Officially Certified Swiss Chronometers. Rolex, Oyster, Oyster Perpetual, Day-Date, Yacht-Master and Perpetual Spirit are trademarks.

FOR THE NAME AND LOCATION OF AN OFFICIAL ROLEX JEWELER NEAR YOU PLEASE CALL 1-800-36ROLEX/1-800-367-6539.

www.rolex.com

New York